

Langstone Lodge, Langstone High Street - APP/24/00121

Dear Sir or Madam,

I sincerely hope that Langstone Lodge will not be demolished. In its early days it had several significant occupiers, including Charles Longcroft of the well-known family of Havant solicitors, who owned Hall Place in South Street. It was also occupied by some high-ranking naval families, including an aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria who became President of the Royal Naval College at Greenwich.

The imposing, Victorian house will be 150 years old in about 2025. It was built by the wealthy, Rector of Havant's family, who also built Woodfield c. 1832 (still at the top of Langstone Road and Grade 2 listed) and Langbrook, now the site of Langbrook Close. The whole family is commemorated in a large stained-glass window in St Faith's Church.

In the 2011 Langstone Conservation Area Appraisal, the Conservation Officer recommended that Langstone Lodge be included in the List of Buildings of Local Interest.

The house is in a prominent position in Langstone Conservation Area and is set in large grounds. It is linked to the Mews in Langstone High Street, where its 1823 coach house still stands. Nos. 2, 2a and 2b Langstone High Street, were built later to house the housekeeper, chauffeur, and gardener, so that the impact of the house can be seen here and in its association with north Langstone.

It is clear from the structural engineers' report that the separate alterations to the house, which they address in their report, could all be remedied. I understand that the owner, who recently purchased Langstone Lodge, is a director of a local building company, so he is in a good position to restore it.

We do not want Langstone Lodge to go the way of the railway cottages at 59 and 61 Langstone Road, still not rebuilt after a fire 6 years ago. It is one of the most important houses in Langstone Conservation Area and permission should not be granted to demolish and rebuild it.