

Conservation Officer – Peter Fellows

Site – Magnolia House, 27 East Street, Havant

Recommendation – Objection

Site and proposals

Magnolia House is a good example of a three-story town house that dates from the 18th century. It is Grade II listed and is located within the St Faiths Conservation Area. It is currently being used as a dentist surgery on the ground floor with residential use on the first and second floors (although these have been vacant for some time).

The proposed alterations seek to refurbish and revise the currently disused or underutilised ground floor spaces to the rear, and to bring the long vacant first and second floor flats back into use as additional patient and staff facilities to accommodate the expanding dental practice.

Policy

Section 16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ("1990 Act") requires local planning authorities to have special regard to the desirability of preserving a listed building, its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest when considering whether to grant listed building consent.

Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires planning authorities, when considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires planning authorities, when considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a Conservation Area, to have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of that area.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the policies that the Council must take into account when determining planning applications. The 'Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2', states at paragraph 4:

'The significance of a heritage asset is the sum of its archaeological, architectural, historic, and artistic interest' and provides at paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 that in order for the Local Planning Authority to make decisions in line with legal requirements, the objectives of the development plan; and, the policy requirements of the NPPF, great importance is placed on understanding the nature, extent and level of the significance of the heritage asset.

The revised NPPF sets out in Chapter 16, the core principles relating to development affecting Heritage Assets that local planning authorities should consider in making planning decisions in the following paragraphs:

'189. Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites which are internationally recognised to be of Outstanding Universal Value. These assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.

194. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

195. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

196. Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect of, or damage to, a heritage asset, the deteriorated state of the heritage asset should not be taken into account in any decision.

197. In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

Considering potential impacts

199. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

200. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;
- b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

Assessment

It is my view that the applicants have clearly and fully considered the proposals put forward in relation to the significance of the listed building. The listed building consent application covers a wide range of works (internal and external) as outlined in the heritage statement. These works form part of a scheme to restore and refurbish the building. Where new works are proposed they have

been designed in a manner that respects the character of the building whilst resulting in minimal loss of historic fabric.

The extent of the external works are relatively modest and primarily only visible from the north elevation or within the private rear garden / courtyard space. The most significant external alteration is the replacement of the existing and relatively modern glazed lean-to structure. The proposed structure is well designed and fits harmoniously into the setting. The publicly prominent south elevation, which faces directly onto the main street, is to be retained as existing with the exception of the proposed conservation repairs to the sash cord windows

I am of the view that the scheme should indeed be commended for these proposals and they will all be in keeping with what exists currently whilst also restoring the building to a former glory. This is very much in line with current conservation philosophy and practice.

Recommendation

No objection, subject to conditions

- 1) Material samples to be submitted
- 2) Sample panel of the rebuilt ironstone wall to be agreed
- 3) Any alterations and repairs to brickwork shall be carried out utilising matching materials, brick bond and jointing details. An appropriate lime mortar shall be used, the specification for which to be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - To maintain the character and avoid damage to the listed building.

- 4) Notwithstanding the approved plans, the development hereby permitted shall not be commenced until detailed drawings of the glazed lantern, windows and doors have been submitted to, and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The details to comprise:-

1:20 elevation and plan; 1:5 section and full size glazing bar detail. The details to include the position of the window within the opening (depth of reveal) and method of fixing the glazing (putty or beading). The materials used method of opening and finishes. The works shall be carried out in full accordance with such approval and be retained thereafter.

Reason - In order to safeguard the building's special architectural and historic interest. It is considered necessary for this to be a pre-commencement condition as these details need to be agreed prior to the construction of the development and thus go to the heart of the planning permission.

- 5) Guttering details to be submitted