

This is a tight urban site with many constraints and is key to the wider regeneration of the area. Viability is a key issue and I accept some compromise may be necessary to bring this about. It is unfortunate that a more comprehensive package covering 5 – 9 East Street has not come forward but this is due to differences in ownership. If minded to grant planning permission active consideration needs to be given as to how implementation of these two projects can be seamlessly secured.

East Street contains several buildings of historic character, several of which are statutorily listed. Due to the era in which the buildings were constructed, many feature architectural detailing such as parapets, projecting gables, wooden windows, quoin detailing etc. The St Faiths Conservation Area Appraisal 2007 describes East Street as:

'In terms of scale, the range of buildings is considerable across the subarea from single storey shops to 3 1/2 storey houses and flats with shops at ground floor. The height of buildings varies from street to street and within streets. East Street in particular has an interesting mix of two and three storey building and variation in how the buildings address the street – some with parapets, some pitch roofs and some projecting gables (figure 2). It is this variation that provides interest and vibrancy to this part of the conservation area. There is a consistency throughout this character area to the building line which is hard to the back of pavement broken only by the churchyard. Even here the raised graveyard wall and trees help continue the important sense of enclosure in the central core of the town'.

In line with Policy CS16 which advises that new development should respond to local distinctiveness and Policy CS11 which advises that development should protect and where possible enhance heritage assets, the proposal includes several architectural features which would be in keeping with the historic character of the streetscene. These includes those referred to in Para 7.4. The proposed building would be of an appropriate height, achieving a vertical emphasis which is characteristic of this part of the conservation area and results in a building which forms a cohesive flow with the juxtapositions of the existing urban grain. Overall the proposal is considered to not result in an adverse impact on the visual amenity of the streetscene or the character of the conservation area.

From my perspective, I am content we have a workable package. The manner of execution and detailing will be crucial. I recommend that planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions.

1) The demolition hereby granted permission shall not be undertaken before a contract for the carrying out of the works of redevelopment of the site has been made and planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment for which the contract provides. The redevelopment shall commence within one month following the completion of the demolition work, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To accord with Section 17(3) of the Act and (a) to prevent premature demolition of the building and the creation of a “gap site” which will be prejudicial to the character and amenities of the Conservation Area.

2)To tie up the phasing of development?

3) Notwithstanding what is shown on the drawings or submitted with the application, no work shall commence until full details, including samples of the external materials and finishes

have been submitted to, and approved in writing by the local planning authority. All work shall be carried out in full accordance with such approval.

Reason: To ensure the materials and finishes are appropriate to this key site with St Faiths conservation area.

4) Prior to the commencement of works, a 1m² sample panel of flintwork shall be constructed for inspection and approval in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: The laying and coursing of flintwork is a craft skill requiring the engagement of suitable operatives to ensure an appropriate standard of finish on this key site within St Faiths conservation.

5) No work shall start until window, door and manufacturers details of the proposed rooflights have been submitted and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The window details to comprise:-

- a) a 1:20 plan, section and elevation shown in relation to the opening into which it is to be set,
- b) full size glazing bar section,
- c) the method of opening and external finishes.

All work shall be carried out in full accordance with such approval and be retained thereafter.

Reason: To ensure the detailing is appropriate to this key site within the St Faiths conservation area.

6) Details of the siting and design of any proposed external meter boxes/metal ducting/flues shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development.

Reason: To protect the character and appearance of the conservation area.