

Conservation Officer – comments

Planning permission is sought for the siting of an outdoor skating rink for a temporary period (6 months), with associated structure's including a cabin, seating area, boot lockers and awning.

The proposed temporary development affects Newton House Hotel, an attractive Grade II listed building that dates from the early 19th century. It is considered that the significance of the listed building is primarily focused on the architectural merits of the form and construction of the hotel (formerly a house). The spacious grounds contribute to the significance of these listed building, reflecting the status of the building, allowing for the building to be both visible and appreciated.

The erection of relatively lightweight temporary buildings for recreational purposes within the grounds of the hotel is not considered to be overly harmful to the appearance of setting of the listed building in the short term. However, a condition should be imposed requiring the site of the ice rink and associated buildings to be made removed and the lawn reinstated when the development has been removed to ensure there is no long-lasting damage to the existing grounds.

I believe that if the structure were to be made permanent then this would harm the setting of the listed building and its grounds and is not something I would support. Such an activity requires a host of associated buildings that give a rather ad-hoc appearance to a sensitive site such as this. If a further proposal is to come forward (once this temporary permission has expired) then it should be in the winter months when it is traditional for structures such as this (November –End of January) to be erected.

No conditions

Peter Fellows
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