

MINUTES OF MEETING

Warwick District Conservation Advisory Forum

Thursday 1st December 2022

14:30 via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Cllr Carolyn Gifford

Dr Christine Hodgetts (Warwickshire Gardens Trust)

Mr Angus Kaye (The Victorian Society)

Ms Cathy Kimberley (CPRE)

Mr James Mackay (20th Century Society)

Ms Gill Smith (The Warwick Society)

Mr Mark Sullivan (RTPI)

Ms Susan Rasmussen (The Leamington Society)

Ms Jane Catterall (WDC)

Mr Robert Dawson (WDC)

Apologies:

Cllr George Illingworth

Mr Gordon Cain (RICS)

Mr Richard Ward (RIBA)

1. **Substitutes and New Members**

None.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting** (3 November 2022)

Were agreed.

4. **Planning Committee Agenda**

A Forum member enquired regarding application W/21/0146/LB relating to the reroofing of a listed building which is recommended for refusal. Officers gave further clarification in that the entire existing Welsh slate roof was to be replaced in imported slate, contrary to Policy HE1 of the WDC Local Plan, which is why the decision had been recommended.

5. Pre-application presentation

A presentation regarding the Creative Hub proposed for Leamington Town Hall was presented to the Forum. The details of the proposal are still being finalised before a submission is made however the driving vision is to create a space to celebrate creativity within the town. The Forum was supportive of the proposal's overall objectives and the aim to reinvigorate the Town Hall.

A proposed Livery Street entrance was considered a potentially positive move to connect with the pedestrian shopping area, but the integration of the door into an untouched historic elevation would require further consideration to prevent harm. The creation of a public space at ground level which transitions in the upper levels to more private, work-orientated spaces will allow the building to retain its civic function but also meet the needs of residents in other ways.

The Forum noted that it was important that any potential applications for the building retained and celebrated its character and historic connection with the inhabitants of Leamington Spa.

6. Planning Applications

6.1 W/22/1832 – Erection of a two storey side extension and extensive external alterations and refurbishment – 24a Castle Lane, Warwick, CV34 4BU

This application relates to a twentieth century building that is within the Warwick Conservation Area and the wider setting of Grade II listed Leycester Cottage and the ground of the Grade I-listed Warwick Castle Park and Gardens. CAF has previously commented on an application relating to this site which was granted but the current scheme has different elements, most notably solar panels and render.

It was noted by all forum members that the plans and supporting documents submitted had been reused from the previous submission. As such, the visuals supporting the heritage statement were applicable to a different design and there were irregularities in the submitted plans. Members agreed that further consideration of the impact of the proposal was difficult to make as the supporting information provided was not relevant.

The Forum agreed that the requirement for solar panels will likely increase and that these should be encouraged however it is important that these are not in sensitive positions or on sensitive buildings. In regards to this application, there is the possibility that these may be visible from Castle Lane and as such, care should be taken in positioning to not impact upon the conservation area and the neighbouring heritage assets.

7.0 Any Other Business

Ms J Catterall passed on a brief update that was kindly provided by Warwickshire County Council's Archaeology Team regarding findings from the works in Abbey Fields.

Date of next meeting: 19th January 2023

Enquiries about the minutes please contact:

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