

# HERITAGE STATEMENT

## Heritage Statement for Brierley Village Club Planning Application



### 1. Introduction

This heritage statement has been meticulously prepared to support the planning application for converting Brierley Village Club into three residential townhouses. Although the Club is not a formally listed building, it is located within a designated conservation area, necessitating a careful appraisal of its historical and architectural significance. This document aims to evaluate the proposed alterations' impact on the character and appearance of the conservation area while ensuring the preservation of the building's heritage value. The approach aligns with relevant local and national planning policies, specifically the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Barnsley's local development framework.

### 2. Context and Historical Background

The village of Brierley, situated in the north-east ward of Barnsley, boasts a rich architectural heritage, which is evident in a number of several historical and significant structures that includes Brierley Hall, Grimethorpe Hall, Brierley Manor Farmhouse, Bridge Farmhouse, and St. Paul's Church. The Brierley Village Club has historically served as a vital nexus for community engagement and social interaction, reflecting local customs and playing a crucial role in the social fabric of the area since its establishment.

The proposed conversion seeks to retain the building's historical essence while adapting it for contemporary residential use. This initiative is consistent with the principles

outlined in the NPPF, which emphasize the need to conserve and enhance the historic environment while adapting it for sustainable community use. The planning application also aligns with local planning policies that prioritize the preservation of heritage assets and community identity.

### 3. Architectural Description of Brierley Village Club

The Brierley Village Club is an appealing former club building located centrally within Brierley, Barnsley. The site encompasses approximately 0.125 hectares (0.309 acres) and is recognized for its aesthetic value and significance to the local community.

#### Key Architectural Features:

- **Architectural Style:** While not explicitly defined by a particular architectural style, the building is noted for its attractive and familiar presence within the community, contributing to the local architectural vernacular.
- **Layout:** The ground floor comprises function rooms and ancillary spaces that facilitate community gatherings, complemented by a modern flat on the upper level, showcasing the building's versatility.
- **Location:** The Club is set on Church Street, amidst a predominantly residential area, reinforcing its role as a community focal point.
- **Original Features:** The building retains design elements characteristic of its era, including a well-proportioned façade, decorative detailing, and proportionate windows, which collectively enhance the conservation area's architectural character.

#### Proposed Alterations:

- **Retention of Original Façade:** The design prioritizes the preservation of the original façade, crucial for maintaining the historical integrity of the building, in line with Section 16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- **Minor Exterior Adjustments:** Proposed modifications include the removal of one large window at the front and replacement of the existing front door. These changes aim to improve the visual aesthetics while honoring the original architectural elements, in accordance with local planning policies focused on conservation.
- **Rear Elevation Modifications:** The proposal suggests replacing two large windows with doors on the rear elevation to enhance accessibility for future residents. The inconspicuous nature of these changes ensures that they will have minimal impact on neighboring properties, consistent with the guidance set out in the Barnsley Local Plan, which emphasizes preserving the historic character.
- **Removal of Recent Extension:** The recent single-storey flat roof extension, which is deemed to lack historical significance, will be removed. This restoration will provide architectural coherence to the building's appearance and is aligned with local conservation objectives aimed at enhancing historical context.

## 4. Impact of Proposed Changes

### Conservation Area Considerations

The proposed modifications are designed to respect and enhance the character of the conservation area. Careful attention has been paid to retaining significant architectural features, as outlined in the **Barnsley Conservation Area Appraisal**, which serves as a framework for guiding alterations within conservation zones. By minimizing visible alterations to the prominent facade, the proposal not only supports but actively contributes to local heritage preservation efforts.

### Community Considerations

Converting **Brierley Village Club** into townhouses directly addresses the local demand for housing while ensuring the preservation of historical and architectural significance. This initiative aligns with the **NPPF's** stance on sustainable development, prioritizing efficient resource use and community planning. The subtle adjustments to the rear elevation will remain discreet, ensuring no negative impact on the character of the adjacent properties, thus preserving the integrity of the community fabric.

## 5. Conclusion

This heritage statement reinforces that the proposed conversion of **Brierley Village Club** into three townhouses is crafted with a commitment to preserving the essential characteristics of the original building while enhancing its suitability for future residential use. The minor alterations proposed focus on maintaining the historical integrity of the facade and ensuring that visual impacts on the conservation area are minimized. This approach adheres to both local and national planning policies, guaranteeing that the rich historical narrative and architectural value of **Brierley** are respected, protected, and preserved for future generations.

## 6. References

- **Historical Documentation:** This will include relevant historical records, architectural assessments, and insights from local historians, which will substantiate the evaluation of significance and proposed changes.
- **Conservation Guidelines:** Local planning documents and the **Barnsley Conservation Area Appraisal** will be referenced to demonstrate compliance with heritage preservation standards and to provide context for the proposed alterations.
- **Planning Policy Framework:** The **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** and local **Barnsley** planning policies focused on conservation areas and heritage assets will be cited to reinforce the rationale behind the proposed adaptive reuse of the site.

This comprehensive heritage statement is intended to foster a deeper understanding of the significance of **Brierley Village Club** and the rationale for its adaptive reuse. The

application aims to ensure that the conversion aligns with conservation objectives and planning policies while contributing positively to the ongoing narrative of Brierley's community heritage.