

Application Reference Number:	2025/0415
Proposal Description:	Installation of comparative blue plaque (Listed Building Consent)
Location:	2 Vicar Road, Darfield, Barnsley, S73 9JZ

Recommendation:

Approve subject to conditions

Site Description

Darfield's Maurice Dobson Museum and Heritage Centre Housed in an old Yeoman's house in Darfield's conservation area, it is a grade 2 listed building. The Museum stands out on the corner of the conservation area, in a prominent position.

Planning History

No recent or relevant planning applications.

Proposed Development

The applicant is seeking listed building consent for the installation of a commemorative plaque.

The commemorative plaque would be installed on the front wall of the Maurice Dobson Museum and Heritage Centre. This would be a commemorative plaque in honour of Maurice Dobson and Fred Halliday.

The plaque would be 18 inch/406mm and be finished in blue with white lettering. It will be mounted through hidden mounting lugs on the rear of the plaque and positioned on the front wall of the building, between the bay window and second window of the downstairs windows.

Relevant Policies

Planning decisions should be made in accordance with the current development plan policies unless material considerations indicate otherwise; the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) does not change the statutory status of the development plan as the starting point for decision making. The Local Plan was adopted in January 2019 and is now accompanied by seven masterplan frameworks which apply to the largest site allocations (housing, employment, and mixed-use sites). In addition, the Council has adopted a series of Supplementary Planning Documents and Neighbourhood Plans

which provide supporting guidance and specific local policies which are a material consideration in the decision-making process.

The Local Plan review was approved at the full Council meeting held 24th November 2022. The review determined that the Local Plan remains fit for purpose and is adequately delivering its objectives. This means, no updates to the Local Plan, in whole or in part, are to be carried out ahead of a further review. The next review is due to take place in 2027, or earlier, if circumstances require it.

Local Plan Allocation – Urban Fabric

The site is allocated as urban fabric in the adopted Local Plan which has no specific land allocation and is a grade II-listed building located in the Regent Street/ Church Street/ Market Hill Conservation Area. Therefore, the following policies are relevant:

- ***Policy SD1: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development.***
- ***Policy D1: High quality design and place making.***
- ***Policy HE1: The Historic Environment.***
- ***Policy HE3: Developments affecting Historic Buildings.***
- ***Policy HE4: Developments affecting Historic Areas and Landscapes.***
- ***Policy GD1: General Development.***

Supplementary Planning Document(s)

- ***Heritage impact statements.***
- ***Advertisements.***

National Planning Policy Framework

The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies and how these are expected to be applied. The core of this is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Proposals that align with the Local Plan should be approved unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In respect of this application, relevant policies include:

- ***Section 12: Achieving well-designed and beautiful places.***
- ***Section 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.***

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

- ***Section 16: Decision on application.***
- ***Section 66: General duty as respects listed buildings in exercise of planning functions.***

- ***Section 72: General duty as respects conservation areas in exercise of planning functions.***

Consultations

Conservation Officer – No objections.

Barnsley Civic Trust – No objections.

Representations

The application has been advertised in accordance with Article 15 of the Town and Country Planning Development Management Procedure (England) Order 2015. A site notice was erected at the site.

It should be noted that 3 letters from the public have been received in support of the scheme, along with a supporting letter from Councillor Kevin Osborne.

Assessment

Principle of Development

Signage to a listed building or located in a conservation area is considered acceptable if it would adopt a proportionate size and a sympathetic design, would respect architectural detail, and would be located in a way that would respect, conserve and enhance the significance and setting of the borough's heritage assets, paying particular attention to those elements which contribute most to the borough's distinctive character and sense of place, and would not significantly alter or detract from the character of the street scene.

Design, Heritage and Visual Amenity

Sections 16 (2), 66 (1) and 72 (1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 require special regard to be had to the desirability of preserving the listed building and conservation area or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

The application property is a grade II-listed building, Barnsley Civic Trust are in favour of the application and states that:

“The wording of the Blue Plaque reflects the story of Maurice and Fred as a ‘couple, defying. We believe that the plaque provides an illustration and interpretation of the building's past and would provide a positive contribution to the building and the conservation area convention and earning the trust and respect of the people of Darfield”

The Council's Conservation Officer has been consulted upon and has made the following comments:

“The property was formerly the residence of Maurice Dobson, a prominent local figure, who lived here from 1956 to 1990. After his passing, ownership transferred to a trust managed by the Darfield Amenity Society, and the building now operates as the Maurice Dobson Museum and Heritage Centre. The museum houses an eclectic collection of artefacts relating to Darfield and the wider Barnsley region.

The proposed plaque will commemorate Maurice Dobson and his partner, Fred Halliday, recognising their more than thirty years’ residence at 2 Vicar Road who defied convention but earned the trust and respect of the local community. Designed with concealed rear fixings, the plaque will measure 18 inches in diameter and be finished in traditional blue and white enamel.

Although the installation will involve some intervention into the historic fabric, this minimal impact is outweighed by the significant commemorative value the plaque brings in honouring two highly regarded individuals.”

The historical significance of the building is derived from its age and architectural merit, as reflected in its Grade II status; however, its communal historic value, often overlooked, is also crucial. The proposal would adopt a modest size, and its design would be reflective of other commemorative plaques that can be found on historical buildings throughout the country. The plaque would be strategically placed to ensure minimal clutter on the building's façade and would provide a positive illustration and interpretation of the building’s past, creating a positive contribution to the building and the conservation area.

The proposal is therefore considered to conserve and enhance the character and appearance of the grade II-listed building in accordance with Section 66 (1) and Section 72 (1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and is considered to comply with *Local Plan Policy HE1: The Historic Environment*, *Local Plan Policy HE3: Developments affecting Historic Buildings*, *Local Plan Policy HE4: Developments affecting Historic Areas and Landscapes* and *Local Plan Policy D1: High Quality Design and Placemaking* and would be acceptable regarding visual amenity.

Recommendation

Approve subject to conditions

Justification

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH ARTICLE 35 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE ORDER 2015

Due regard has been given to Article 8 and Protocol 1 of Article 1 of the European Convention for Human Rights Act 1998 when considering objections, the determination of the application and the resulting recommendation. It is considered that the

recommendation will not interfere with the applicant's and/or any objector's right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.