



**Heritage Statement in support of  
Planning & Conservation Area Consent Application for**



**Penistone Town Hall Remodelling & Refurbishment**

**August 2025**

**Revision P2**

## **Contents**

- **Proposed works under consideration**
- **Relevant Legislation / Planning Policies**
- **History of Penistone Town Hall**
- **Heritage Impact Assessment**
- **Conclusion**
- **Appendix A – Listed Building Entries**

### **Proposed works under consideration**

The following impact assessment considers the heritage impacts of the works proposed in the remodelling and refurbishment of Penistone Town Hall. The remodelling and refurbishment will see the vacant spaces in the Town Hall repurposed as a cinema screen with an ancillary café bar and new box office as part of the proposed expansion of the Penistone Paramount Cinema.

The works will involve minimal alterations to the external building fabric, with the majority of the works being undertaken internally in replanning the existing space.

The existing façade will be steam cleaned and the existing leaded timber framed window will be restored as part of the proposed scheme.

### **Relevant Legislation / Planning Policy**

#### **Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990**

In terms of the impact on the special character and appearance of the listed building, Section 16 (2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, states:

In considering whether to grant listed building consent for any works the local planning authority or the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses

#### **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

NPPF para 189 and 190: The NPPF requires applicants to describe the significance (heritage) of any heritage asset affected by a proposal including any contribution made by the setting of the asset. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and the degree of intervention the proposal represents. The local Planning Authorities will take the heritage significance of an asset into account and consider any impacts on the asset to avoid conflict with the conservation of the asset.

NPPF para 193: Great weight given to an asset's conservation, irrespective of the degree of harm

NPPF para 194: Any harm to or loss of significance will require clear and convincing justification

## **Barnsley Local Plan Policies**

Barnsley Local Plan Policy HE1: The Historic Environment: Positively encourage developments that help in the management, conservation and understanding of the historic environment

Barnsley Local Plan Policy HE3: Developments affecting Historic Buildings: Proposals involving historic buildings should conserve and where appropriate enhance, respect historic precedents, and capitalise on opportunities to reveal significance

## **Designated Heritage Assets**

Whilst the Town Hall doesn't have any listings, it sits within the Penistone Conservation Area and is also located opposite St John's Church, which is a Grade I listed building.

## **History of Penistone Town Hall**

Penistone Town Hall located on Shrewsbury Road in the Town of Penistone, which sits approximately 7.5 miles west of Barnsley town centre. The building is surrounded by residential properties, a public car park and sits opposite St John's church. The building started out as a library, commissioned and funded by Andrew Carnegie. This is evident by the inscription on the stone above the top entrance door. The library opened in June 1913. Shortly after, the Town Hall was constructed, which was completed in October 1914. Finally, the cinema was completed and opened on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1915 (Credit: The Penistone History Archive).

The building still operates as a cinema and town hall today, although the library has since moved to a new site on High Street.

As part of the Penistone Neighbourhood Development Plan 2018 – 2033 Referendum Plan, the Penistone Carnegie library and Penistone Paramount cinema were identified for protection as non-designated heritage assets.

## **Heritage Values**

The significances and sensitivities of the heritage assets in the affected areas can usefully be identified following the practice and advice provided in the English Heritage Conservation Principles (2008).

### **Evidential Value**

As the building remains in its original form, the evidential value is quite prominent and the inscriptions above the two doors of the old Library and Town Hall provide a clear indication of the buildings original use. The cinema has also retained many of its original features internally.

### **Historical Value**

Overall, the principal historical value remaining here would arise from the association with Andrew Carnegie and the history of Penistone Town Council. The original features of the cinema provide an insight into how cinemas would have looked over 100 years ago. It is also believed that there are very few cinemas still in operation from 1915. In 2000, a Compton organ was installed which had started life in the Paramount Theatre (now Odeon) New Street Birmingham. The introduction of the

organ saw the cinema renamed as the Paramount in honour of the new organ. (Credit The Penistone History Archive and [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)).

### Aesthetic Value

The aesthetic value of the building comes mostly from the front elevation, which remains mostly in its original form. The stonework detailing along with the leaded and stained-glass windows represent design and construction methods from the early 1900's. The stone inscriptions also add to the aesthetic value, providing an insight into the buildings history as well as marking the date of completion.

### Communal/Social Value

This area of heritage value is concerned with how heritage assets are used and valued by society. The Paramount cinema is well used and valued by the residents of Penistone, providing good value cinema screenings in an authentic environment. The Town Hall chamber is still used for Town Council meetings; however, the other ground floor spaces remain vacant. The first floor is occupied by the Penistone Freemason's who use the space on a weekly basis for their meetings. The proposed cinema expansion aims to bring the wider building back into regular use for the local community.

### Heritage Impact Assessment

The proposed works to restore the front elevation will vastly improve the appearance of the building. The new main entrance will be sympathetic to the existing building by using similar materials and design features, such as stone profiles and metalwork.

### Conclusion

Overall, we would suggest the proposal is justified and represents no harm to the heritage significance of the listed building and is therefore in accordance with local and national planning policy.

### Appendix A – Listed Building Entries (Source [www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk))

#### Church of St John

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: I

List Entry Number: 1314709

Date first listed: 23-Jun-1965

Statutory Address:

CHURCH OF ST JOHN, MARKET PLACE