

To whom it may concern,

Re: Barnsley YMCA Planning Application ref 2023/1130 Condition 9

With respect to the above the attached details are provided for discharge of condition 9.

The following is a statement from the design team and more specifically the architectural team at Bond Bryan:

Following an extended Co-Design process with young people at the YMCA, we have finalised material choices for the design to the building exterior. The proposals have been interrogated over the course of a number of workshops, and have achieved a broad consensus across key stakeholder groups: the young people, many of whom have been part of the Co-Design process from the outset of the project, the YMCA Board, the retail unit tenants, and the staff who lead the YMCA and the work on site with young people.

The design aims to enliven and improve the condition of the building's exterior, currently tired and lacking in a clear identity as a welcoming space for young people. Thanks to the Co-Design process, the young people have had a direct hand in shaping design decisions, guided by the Architect and wider project team, and feel a clear sense of ownership for the building which was previously lacking. One young person fed back that the Co-Design process was the first time they had felt listened to, which, as Architects concerned to have as positive an impact as we possibly can on the communities we work with and design for, is hugely rewarding feedback.

The design also answers the desires of the young people to improve the way finding from the town centre with a more legible and visible design, and to create a more welcoming arrival and sense of place. The improvements to the retail units, whilst forming part of a separate planning application, are in harmony with the overall design, and help to establish this parade of shops as a desirable place for boutique/independent businesses, with the intention of increasing amenity, footfall, and decreasing the risks of empty units with long void periods; but also improving the environment in line with an established condition: young people know the retail units are a place of safety they can call upon when needed.

