

PLANNING / CONSERVATION STATEMENT (INCLUDING DESIGN AND ACCESS)

Coordinated signage for The Civic, Hanson Street, Barnsley on Eldon Street, Hanson Street and Mandela Gardens Elevations.

The Civic building was refurbished and reopened in March 2009, and covers an area which has frontage on Hanson Street, Eldon Street and Mandela Gardens. The original entrance to the pre-refurbished building was on Eldon Street however since the reopening no access to the new development facing Hanson Street and Mandela Gardens can be achieved through the original entrance.

The lack of external signage on this frontage is proving confusing to the community especially when the occupier, Barnsley Connects, is closed and events are happening in the new development in the evenings. The aim of the signage is to create a cohesive approach to the building; enable people to understand that the whole building is one complete entity with a new entrance accessed via Hanson Street and enable people who view the new building from Mandela Gardens to know where the new entrance is located on Hanson Street.

The signage on the Eldon Street frontage will assist the community to navigate their way from Eldon Street to the appropriate entrance for performance events in the evenings and also help to inform people of the location of the building and its' purpose.

The Proposal

The proposal seeks Listed Building Consent for a scheme of coordinated signage for The Civic on the Eldon Street, Hanson Street, and Mandela Gardens elevations in response to the rebranding of the Civic Hall as The Civic.

Policy

Relevant planning policies are contained within the Barnsley Unitary Development Plan, adopted in December 2000. The site lies within the town centre conservation area.

Policy BE1 States that 'in conservation areas development will only be approved if it enhances or preserves the character or appearance of the conservation area. The Civic is also a listed building. As such policy BE2 applies in order to ensure development does not adversely affect the special architectural or historic interest character of the listed building.

Pre- Application Discussions

In accordance with good practice the applicant has had numerous meetings with council officers Tony Wiles and Nick King. The enclosed proposal is the result of these discussions.

Character Appearance and setting of a listed building.

Following numerous discussions with council officers, the proposal has been redesigned in order to ensure the permanent signage is appropriate and sensitive

to the character of the listed building. Furthermore, signage away from original historic elements of the building has been designed in such a way as to be in harmony with the architecture and ensure it compliments and enhances the building and the Conservation Area.

Access

Physical access to the site will be unchanged as a result of the proposal. It is proposed that legibility and access to the building will be enhanced due to the improved signage.

Conclusion

The application proposal has been subject to an evolving design process, having careful regard to the attributes of the site, that fact the building is listed, and the requirements of the adopted UDP policies and the discussions the applicant has had with Council's officers. It is considered that the design is high quality and appropriate to the character of the listed building and will enhance the existing appearance and setting of The Civic within the conservation area.