

Heritage Statement In support of 2020/0370-0371 (Listed Building Consent)

Internal Alterations to the Learning Lab
Barnsley Town Hall, Barnsley S70 2AN

April 2020



NPS BARNSELEY LTD
Level 5, Gateway Plaza, Sackville Street
Barnsley S70 2SB.

Revision	Date	Description	Author
A	1/5/2020	Listed Building Application Support	ICP

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Proposed works under consideration

The following impact assessment considers the heritage impacts of the works proposed under application 2020/0370. The works involve relocating existing double doors from the access corridor into the learning lab and forming a shielding lobby in the corridor within Barnsley Town Hall.

The Learning Lab area of the Town hall is situated on the Ground Floor through the Experience Barnsley Museum and Discovery Centre. It is a self-contained space with a 60 person capacity and is utilised for lectures, meetings, courses, demonstrations & workshops. (See Appendix B – Images).

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

The building is listed at grade II (NHLE Entry: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1151143>) As such the building has a high degree of special interest and is recognised to be of national significance. This high degree of heritage significance is largely due to the historical significance of the building and its state of preservation. A full listing description is included at Appendix A.



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

The Town Hall has evidential value with respect to its history. Internally, whilst there has been significant modern reconfiguration and alteration works later years forming the Barnsley Experience and Museum , many of the Town Hall features are still in place.

Historical Value

The historical value of the building as a whole represents the pre-war significance of Barnsley. Designed by Sir Arnold Thornely in the classical style utilising a facade of smooth Portland stone.

The building was designated as world heritage site: 13 January 1986

Conclusion

Due to the minor contribution of the internal fabric of the spaces concerned we would conclude the proposed works represent zero degree of harm to the heritage significance of

the listed building. The new alterations and fit out will also be functional and in keeping with the previous alterations appearance. I suggest that this will not in itself harm the special interest of the building as most of the spaces affected by the proposal are not public facing.

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

TOWN HALL INCLUDING ATTACHED RAILINGS, CHURCH STREET

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

District:

Barnsley (Metropolitan Authority)

National Grid Reference:

SE 34365 06521

Details

SE3406NW BARNSELY CHURCH STREET SE3406SW (west side), Barnsley 8/10 Town Hall including 9/10 attached railings GV II Town Hall and attached railings. 1933 by Briggs and Thornely of Liverpool. Portland stone, brick infill panels at rear. Classical style. 3 storeys plus basement to front due to sloping ground. 21 bays by 10 bays with 2 internal courtyards. Symmetrical facade of 8, 5 and 8 bays. The central 5 bays break forward and are surmounted by a tall square tower. Rusticated ground floor with band above. Central square-headed portal with dentilled cornice surmounted by anthemion acroteria and a central cartouche with scroll support. Foundation tablets to each side. A giant, Corinthian distyle in antis loggia with clasping pilasters to each side on 1st and 2nd floors of the central 5 bays. 3 tall round-arched windows with glazing bars to the back wall. Iron balustrade. The single square-headed window to each side has a small cornice on console brackets and a large panel above. Windows to other bays are 20-pane casements, with 16 panes to the smaller 2nd-floor windows. Deep frieze and cornice and deep parapet which is balustraded over the central 3 bays. The 3-stage reducing square tower sits on a square base with corner urns. The 1st stage has a large niche to each face, and in each is set a square-headed window with fluted Doric colonnettes supporting a full entablature with urns. Below the niche on the facade side is a relief of the Barnsley County Borough coat of arms with its supporters: a miner and a glass-blower. Corner urns surmount the 1st stage. A clock face to each side of the 2nd stage which has a Doric entablature with anthemion acroteria. The final stage has a triple group of slender lights, a deep, swagged frieze with acroteria and stepped blocking courses. The rear elevation has 5 central bays with a 1st and 2nd floor giant order of square piers and pilasters with ornamental capitals. The centre 3 bays form a loggia whose lower part (1st floor) is infilled with tripled windows. Other windows are casements as before. The left and right return elevations have 8 central bays and wide corner bays which break forward slightly and are framed at 1st- and 2nd-floor levels by giant fluted Corinthian pilasters. 1st-floor windows to corner bays have cornices, the rest are 16 and 20-pane casements as before.

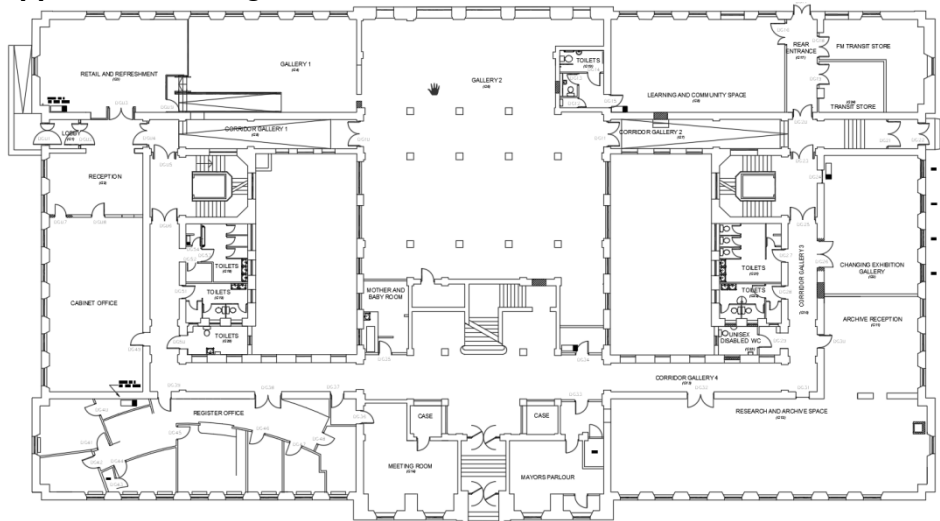
Interior: entrance hall with good central staircase with decorative cast-iron balustrade and bronze handrail and newels. Dentilled plaster friezes, decorated with anthemion. Glazed dome over stairwell. Terrazzo fluted piers. The Council chamber has walnut panels and fluted Corinthian pilasters, original fittings and good detailing.

Attached railings: square, Portland stone panelled piers, dwarf wall and heavy cast-iron railings are attached at front and continue around the building. Round, cast-iron fluted bars with square bosses, pineapple finials and round section rails. Two fluted, ornamental lamp standards with later lamp housings, to each side of entrance. The Town Hall was opened by H.R.H. Edward, Prince of Wales on 14th December 1933.

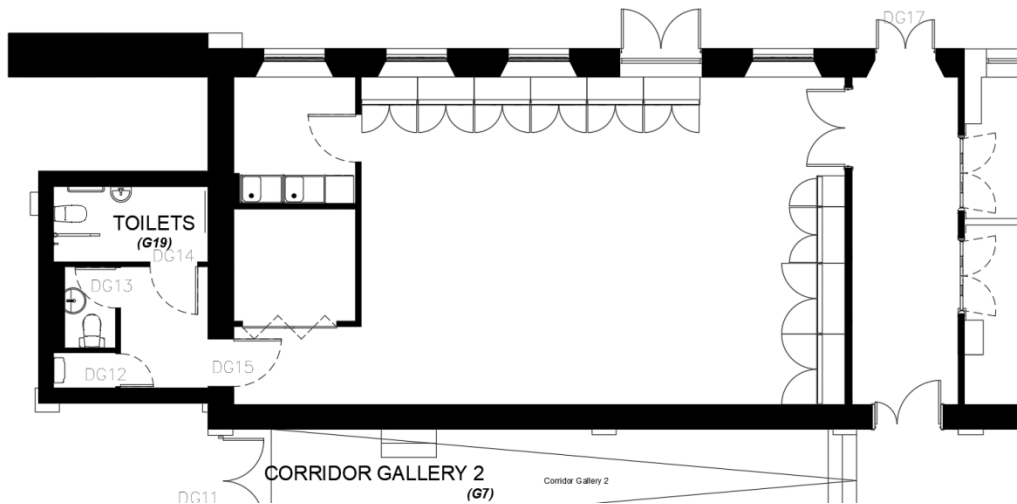
N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England*, 1967.

Listing NGR: SE3436506521

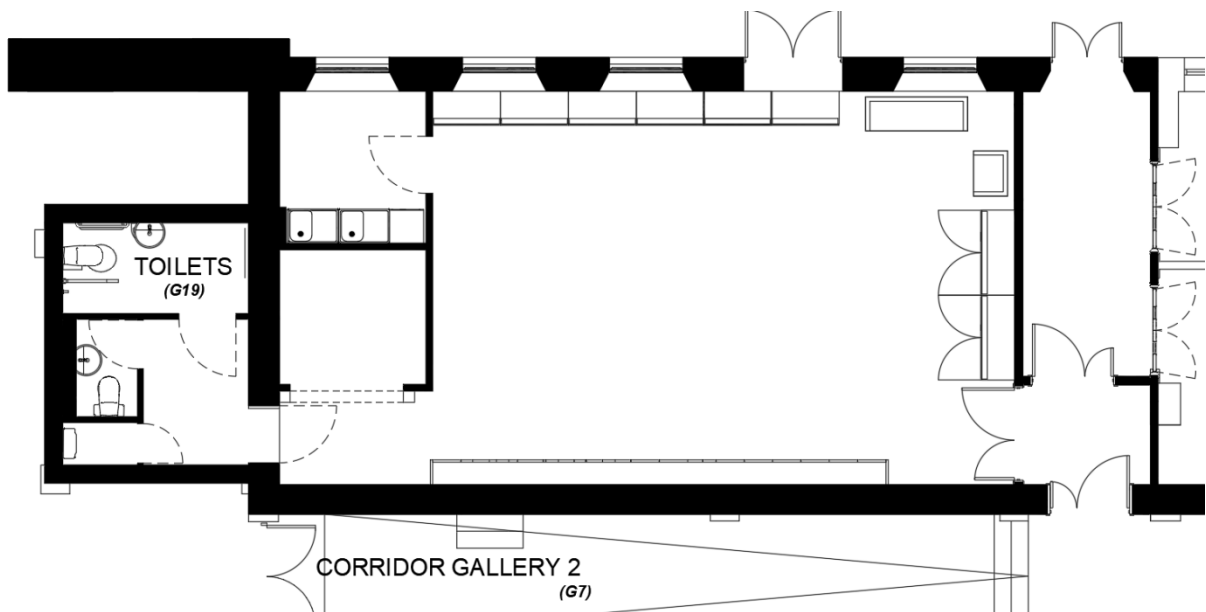
Appendix B – Images



1.01 Town Hall Ground Floor



1.02 Existing Learning Lab Plan



1.03 Proposed Learning Lab Plan

2.00 Existing Photographs

