

DESIGN AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This statement has been prepared in support of an application for Full Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent for works to Barnsley Civic Hall, a Grade II Listed Building within the Regent Street/ Church Street/Market Hill Conservation Area and a Heritage Assessment.
- 1.2 The works are of a relatively minor nature and the report is therefore relatively brief and proportionate.

2.0 Proposals

- 2.1 The works involve minor internal and non-structural alterations to a small part of the ground floor to form a bar and alterations to toilets, the addition of signage to the shop window facing Eldon Street and the additional of air-cooling plant at the rear.

3.0 Location

- 3.1 Barnsley Civic Hall is located on the west side of Eldon Street within Barnsley Town Centre.



Fig 01. Illustrative Location Plan.

DESIGN AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

4.0 Historical Context and Significance

- 4.1 Previous/recent planning applications have provided detailed information about the development of the site prior to and following the construction of The Civic Hall around 1876. It is understood that the building was designed as a large public hall with seating for 2000 people, a library and reading rooms, a billiard room for the local Mechanics Institute and classrooms for a school of art on the top floor. The frontage onto Eldon Street was subdivided into shops and offices for letting although these have been previously amalgamated into the larger open-plan spaces which remain today.
- 4.2 The original form, particularly the eastern façade to Eldon Street and the general arrangement of the building has been adapted over the years but recent changes have reinstated the appearance of the principal frontage.
- 4.3 The Eldon Street frontage is clearly an area of high significance and recent alterations to restore the shop fronts have removed some inappropriate works and reinstated a more appropriate and traditional appearance. Elevations to the side and rear, particularly to the north have seen significant change and remodelling over the years and now their significance should be considered to be low.
- 4.4 The site frontage includes the main entrance to the building which has a high significance and is a principal feature of the building.
- 4.5 All other areas within the extent of the application site area have had considerable change and are considered to have a medium to low significance.

5.0 Proposed Work and Heritage Impact Assessment

5.1 Summary of Proposals

- 5.1.1 Non-structural internal alterations to fit out the frontage rooms with a bar and make minor changes to the toilet layouts. Details shown on drawing ref: 24.25 P01A Proposed Plans.

These works are of a minor nature and require no alteration to any of the original structure of the building. They do not affect the original room heights or proportions and are considered to cause no harm to the heritage significance of the building.

- 5.1.2 Addition of advertising signage to ground floor frontage shop windows. Details shown on drawing ref: 24.25 P02A Eldon Street Elevation.

The plans show the addition of signage to the glazing which is modest and of an appropriate design and use of font to suit the age and character of the existing building. The scale is modest and uncluttered and uses a single colour – white. The choice of ‘*The Reading Room*’ as a name for the bar is a reference to a former use of the building.

The signage is considered to cause no harm to the heritage significance of the building.

DESIGN AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

- 5.1.3 Addition of air-cooling plant to the north elevation. Details shown on drawing ref: 24.25
P03 North Elevation – External Services.

Images below illustrate the existing north elevation of the Civic and the area for the proposed chiller units.



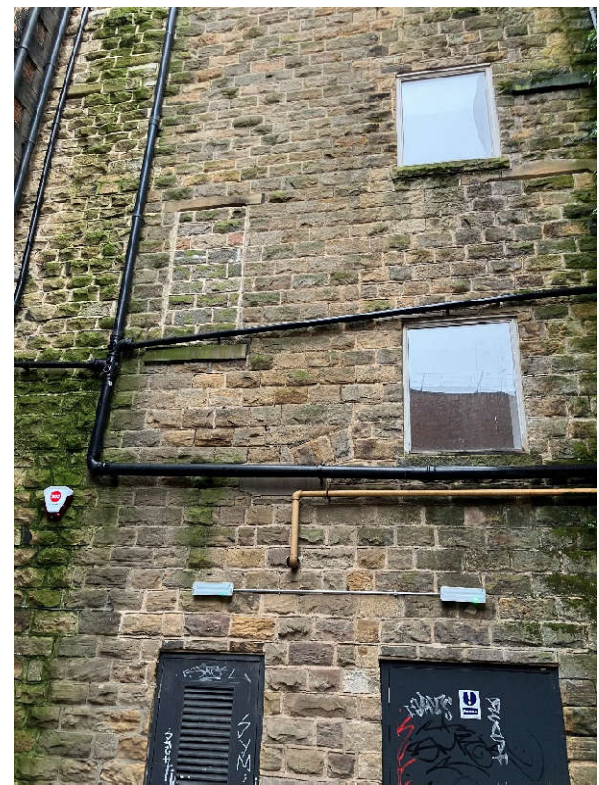
Fig 02. Re-modelled north elevation.



Fig 03. Re-modelled north elevation.



Fig 04. Part of original north elevation showing various alterations of original openings and addition of inappropriate services, pipework and clutter.



DESIGN AND HERITAGE STATEMENT



Fig 05. Image of the rear of Lesley Francis hair salon in the area of the proposed air conditioning units.



Fig 06. Existing services and a/c units at the rear of Lesley Francis hair salon within 5 meters of the proposed location of the new units to serve the bar.

DESIGN AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

The original north elevation has been completely re-modelled with a modern façade as shown in Fig 02 and Fig 03. There remains a very narrow section of the original exterior elevation of the Civic Hall which is 5.6m wide and is shown in the two images in Fig 04. None of the original window or door openings in this elevation remain and have either been built up or partially removed and built up in stonework.

New window openings (referenced 1, 2 and 3 on plan) have been inserted to provide natural light to an internal staircase and emergency exit doors have been added at low level as well as plastic rainwater pipe and guttering in an adhoc manner. There are a number of services including extraction, lighting and a gas pipe that also adorn the elevation.

At high level above the stonework (Fig 04) there is a metal handrail and a steel service duct at roof level.

Immediately adjoining the north elevation of the Civic Hall is the west elevation at the rear of Lesley Francis hair salon. Attached to the rear of their premises and within a few meters of the proposed site for a chiller unit are 4No air conditioning units and various service pipes as shown in Fig 04 and 05. The buildings form a small courtyard and represent the rear service areas of the individual uses including space for bins storage.

Any significance that the small remainder of the original north elevation might have had has been severely compromised by previous works.

The proposed plan ref: P03 shows the addition of 1No chiller unit and 2No Heat Dump chiller units located on the outside of the building within the recessed area on the north elevation adjacent to a store and plant room. These will be wall mounted and it is proposed that these are sprayed dark grey to allow them to blend better into their surroundings.

The addition of the proposed chiller units in this location is considered to have a neutral impact and any minor harm created can be mitigated by improving their appearance using a dark grey finish. It is considered that the works will cause no harm to the heritage significance of the building.

11.0 Summary

The statement identifies the nature and significance of the Grade II Listed Building and the surrounding Conservation Area and assesses the impact of the proposals upon the heritage asset. The works are relatively minor and have been carefully designed to be sympathetic and appropriate such that there is no adverse impact upon the significance of the heritage asset.



MBooth Design Ltd