

## **SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK DESIGN REVIEW PANEL**

Date of meeting:	30/10/17
Site:	<b>The Petersfield Museum, St Peters Road, Petersfield. GU32 3HU</b>
Proposal:	Repair and conserve the buildings of Petersfield Museum and Courthouse and add single storey link building between Petersfield Museum and St Peters Road
Planning reference:	<b>SDNP/17/04342/PRE</b>
Panel members sitting:	David Hares CHAIR Adam Richards John Starling John Hearn
SDNPA officers in attendance:	Mark Waller-Gutierrez (Design Officer) Nat Belderson (Planning Link Officer) Hannah Chapman (Assistant Planning Link Officer) Sara Osman (Support Services Co-ordinator)
SDNPA Planning Committee in attendance:	None
Item presented by:	Danielle Hall (Planning Officer), EHDC John Skipper, Hampshire County Council Bill Gosney, Trustee of Petersfield Museum
Declarations of interest:	None

The Panel's response to your scheme will be placed on the Planning Authority's website where it can be viewed by the public.

The SDNPA operate a transparent service, whereby pre-application and application details, although not actively publicised will be placed on the online planning register. This is unless the applicant gives reasons why the enquiry is commercially sensitive.

## COMMENTS

	Notes
<b>I.0 Discussion/ Questions with applicants</b>	<p><b>1. The Panel asked how the collections in the museum will sit within the existing museum and new space.</b> The Applicant explained that the museum started with a collection on the social history of the town from the Historical Society. Over the years several collections have been added, notably a nationally significant collection of theatrical items from Bedales, a collection of Bronze age items from the Heath, the Flora Twort gallery collection and a new collection of literary items relating to the poet, Edward Thomas. These sit alongside collections in the police house and court house. The new museum layout will lead people through the history of the town.</p> <p><b>2. The Panel asked if the café, included in the first application, was still part of the new plans</b> The Applicant said there is no longer a permanent café in these plans. They aim to have a pop-up, mobile café provided in the courtyard in summer.</p> <p><b>3. The Panel asked whether there were any plans to do anything with the windows on the west elevation.</b> The Applicant stated that they had discussed at length whether to keep or remove the windows and decided to redecorate them and leave them as they are.</p> <p><b>4. The Panel asked what the second floor on the plans was used for</b> The Applicant explained that it was used for archive storage.</p> <p><b>5. The Panel asked for clarification on plans for the large and imposing chimney at the back of the police building</b> The Applicant said they are proposing to take it down to create more internal space. It is not believed to be original to the building and thought to have been built in the early 20th Century.</p> <p><b>6. The Panel asked if their current scheme had taken into account suggestions from the previous DRP meeting</b> The Applicant stated that they had been through each point individually and addressed them.</p>

<p><b>2.0 Panel Summary</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Panel opened by thanking the Applicant for coming.</li> <li>2. The Panel summarised their discussions by explaining that the proposals as currently presented, whilst moving in the right direction, did not give a clear idea of the use of space. The panel would like to see a more clear vision coming through the building proposals.</li> <li>3. The Panel suggested that there was scope to make better use of the courtyard space, which should be a much more dominant part of the route through the museum. The landscape of the courtyard should be a key focal point, using strong and simple architecture, which should be a catalyst for pathways leading off it. The panel suggested thinking of the design from the courtyard out into the museum, rather than the other way around. This would comply with the 'landscape-led approach' which is a key characteristic of developing design strategy for development within the South Downs National Park.</li> <li>4. The Panel noted that the museum was an interesting site with some very interesting collections, however they would like more clarity on how the design enhanced the experience for the public and how the building is used to emphasise the exhibitions housed within the museum. The panel would welcome a presentation on this from other experts working with the Trustees on this aspect of the museum's design.</li> <li>5. The Panel expressed concerns about the roof height of the proposed link building and amount of corten visible which would face the windows of the properties opposite. They suggested that the roof of the new building could slope down in line with the wall on the side of the twitten while remaining as proposed on the interior side. Externally this would reduce the amount of corten used on the public side. Internally it would create a 'Hall of the Lost Step' style passage that draws the public down before it opens up into the courthouse. They also suggested that the corten could be used in a creative way to make best use of the space and make a virtue out of the asymmetric roof idea.</li> <li>6. The Panel felt that this is an opportunity to give a modern simplicity to the new building, the courtyard and any other exterior interventions so they contrast with the busier exterior of the existing buildings. The Panel would like to see materials used on the surfaces of the new link building which would help this simplicity and questioned the use of the timber panelling.</li> <li>7. In terms of materials, the Panel were not clear whether the corten was taking cues from something in the museum collection or the locality.</li> <li>8. The Panel were not currently convinced about the proposed landscaping at the front of the building. Not convinced about the use of planting and they wondered whether the reference to the circus would be clear enough to most people.</li> </ol>
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