

SITE: Gilbert White House

Design Review Panel Workshop NOTES

DATE: 12th March 2020

TIME: 2.50 – 3.50pm

VENUE: Ditchling Room, SDC,
Midhurst

Attending DRP:

Mark Penfold (Chair)
Kay Brown
Steven Bee
Merrick Denton-Thompson
Clare Sutton
Kim Wilkie

Attending SDNPA:

Mark Waller-Gutierrez
Ben Terry
Richard Fergusson
Ruth Childs
Tania Hunt

Attending Applicants:

No applicants present

Points discussed during the workshop

Points from the presentation:

Holiday Units

- In a Conservation Area
- Not fixed on 7 units
- There is a lack of accommodation in the village for wedding guests
- Biodiversity and protected species are a concern
- Views out across the parkland from the lodges

Key questions from the case officer:

1. In principle, is it a good idea or not?
2. What is the potential approach that could be taken?

Panel
Comments
Holiday
Units

The panel unanimously agreed that the huts were not the right fit for this site due to;

- Ruin the character of this part of the site in listed parkland, to have a row of huts
- The Queens Hotel in the village and could be an option for accommodation purposes and it would make more sense to utilise an existing building.
- There hasn't been a case made for the holiday accommodation
- Too much impact on mature trees, some of which would have to come out and remainder would be impacted.
- Path infrastructure, services, light pollution, large areas of glazing were all concerns and just generally agreed it was inappropriate for a designated landscape.

Education Centre

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing building used for weddings and field study education and it is the desire to separate it due to popularity. Option D – least sensitive to the area for the site as it is near the car park, with the two alongside Gracious Street being the least suitable. The site nearest the house would destroy the location and the landscape.
<p>Panel Comments Education Centre</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> There are 2 options: Option 1 is linking the existing barn and extended out to the sheds. Examples of linking could be the Weald & Downland Centre (where they achieved positive spaces between buildings). Option 2 is having separate shed conversions, reconfiguring the sheds to a field study area that is detached from the barn. This could mean that the sheds could be simpler, as they are not attached to the barn, which is likely to be listed. Field Study Centre and car park have a very poor layout – here is an opportunity to create a farmstead type arrangement and maintenance shed close to the car park with a new car park layout. There were concerns that consent for the barn may make a mockery of the consent process due to the original planning application for field study purposes. Concerns regarding car parking space and access due to popularity and growth of the site.
<p>Recommen ded Next Steps</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create a Business Plan for the area; how the site impacts on the landscape and how they are going to find the money to sustain what they are doing. Trustees and Consultants need to be more aware of the importance of the historic landscape Consult with the National Trust Jenifer White – Historic England – should be consulted on the site It might be worth sharing information from a study done by Natural History Museum with Gilbert White House.
<p>Details for next session</p>	