

AMENDED

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Robin Hoods Bay Museum, Littlewood Terrace, Robin Hood's Bay

Heritage Statement

NYMNP
- 3 MAY 2016

Heritage Significance

The application site is a Grade II listed building located within the bounds of Robin Hoods Bay Conservation Area. It was formerly used as a reading room and library but now houses the village museum. It is constructed of coursed, roughly dressed sandstone under a pantile roof and represents a form of vernacular building that is synonymous with the old town of Robin Hood's Bay. The significance of the building as defined by Historic England's Conservation Principles lies within the combination of the building's historical illustrative value, its aesthetic value; both designed and fortuitous, and its evidential value.

The Museum terminates the south east end of Fisherhead and backs onto Littlewood Terrace which runs perpendicular to Fisherhead. The stand pipe is located adjacent the rear elevation and the proposed sign would be attached to the lower section of this elevation.

Assessment of Impact

Impact on the special architectural and historic interest of the listed building

The scale of the proposed plaque is similar to that of the adjacent ventilation grille. It will be located at low level on the rear, subservient elevation. This is an organic elevation with no designed symmetry or architectural features that the plaque could visually compete with or undermine. All the values outlined above would be conserved by the work. A very low level of harm may occur to the building's designed aesthetic value but it is felt that this harm will be offset by the public benefit that will ensue from having the history of the stand pipe explained.

Impact on character and appearance of the Conservation Area

There are a considerable number of similar scale signs scattered throughout the village explaining points of interest. This plaque will be one of three added by the CCF fund; all of which will be designed in a style consistent with the age of the village. Only people exploring the village or accessing the rear or Fisherhead or Littlewood Terrace would see this particular sign. Given this and the fact that the plaque will be located at low level, traditionally detailed and of modest size its impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area is considered to be negligible. It is also possible that the plaque might enhance the setting of the standpipe which is considered to be non-designated heritage asset and thus contribute to the aesthetic fortuitous value of this section of streetscape.

Mitigation

The plaque will be located in such a way as to minimise the number of screws that are fixed directly into the stonework with screws fixed, wherever possible, into 20th century, mortar. If removed at a later date the plaque would leave four screw holes which could be filled with lime mortar and sand

to form a 'plastic' stone repair. The plaque will be located at low level where it should not be too 'eye catching' other than to anyone bending to inspect the standpipe. The plaque will be the smallest size necessary to accommodate the requisite text and will be painted in a manner typical of Victorian signage so should not look out of place within the streetscape.

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Notes