

Design & Access Statement for Ebenezer Methodist Chapel

Introduction

This is an application for replacement windows, refurbishment of outbuilding for biomass boiler and an extension for caretaker accommodation - at Ebenezer Methodist Chapel, Rosedale East, Near Pickering, N.Yorks. YO18 8RH.

The applicant is Mr. Edward J. Harpin.

16 APR 2015

Existing Site

The Chapel currently provides hostel type accommodation and includes a chapel room for the local Methodist congregation. The chapel is built in coursed natural stone with a tiled roof. The property is accessed from Daleside Road with further accommodation at a lower ground level. It is situated in the North Yorkshire Moors National Park, 2 miles from the village of Rosedale Abbey.

There is a car park to the side of the property.

The applicant is the owner of the property next door (The Orange Tree Relaxation Centre) he bought the chapel in April 2015 to be used for group accommodation.

Proposal

The proposed new windows are to replace the current single glazed timber windows that are too badly rotten to repair to a satisfactory level.

The refurbishment of the outbuilding is required to house the biomass boiler and fuel which will be used for the heating for the chapel (currently there is no central heating)

The addition of the caretakers accommodation will provide a place for a staff member (Edward) to stay on site. It will be within the footprint of a previous building that has since been removed.

Access

In 2010 approval was obtained to form an access road, parking facilities and disabled access path. These have all been implemented.

Design & Materials.

The proposed new windows will be double glazed with frames made of powder coated aluminium in a similar style to the existing, including the same transom pattern. They will be in a brown colour to match the existing timber windows. The reason for choosing aluminium is due to its environmental credentials (as opposed to upvc). Due to the chapels exposed position the windows have to withstand severe weather conditions, these windows have been designed for that purpose.

The biomass boiler and fuel store will be accommodated in an existing outbuilding. The outbuilding is built in brick with a replacement (dark grey)corrugated sheet roofing.

The caretakers accommodation will be of stone construction, aluminium windows, timber door and tiled roof, all to match main building.

Planning.

The proposed new windows will increase the insulation to the property and greatly reduce maintenance work.

The proposed refurbishment to the outbuilding will allow for the installation of an environmentally friendly heating system (biomass) and necessary storage for fuel.

Currently the property has no central heating and plug in electric heaters have been used.

The caretakers accommodation will provide a place for a staff member (Edward) to live on site and be on call 24 hours if necessary.

More info:

The Orange Tree is developing into a place where people come to relax and also re--discover clarity and purpose in their lives. We also aspire to be an example of sustainability and we try and live in alignment with Permaculture principles.

I own and run the Orange Tree and I am also the course director. I have immensely enjoyed the last 4 years here. During this time I have lived communally, I have a small bedroom in the basement, though share a kitchen/ toilet/ shower and living space with the rest of the house.

This has been a good experience and has taught me a lot of good lessons. Though I am the kind of person who needs my own space to recharge my batteries. I found that being around people 24 hours a day combined with my workload was at times leading me to burn-out.

16 APR 2015

Getting the yurt last year has been a massive help. Though it is great for summer, though in winter it is not ideal and I still share a busy working kitchen and facilities with the other staff and guests.

I need to live on site as I am on call 24 hours a day for the guests and I also do the majority of the maintenance work.

As I am getting older (and plan to be here my whole life) I am realising that to make this project sustainable for me in the long run I would really benefit from having a bit of my own space. Somewhere I can just go and make a cup of tea and be by myself. So I can take a bath/ shower without queuing or waiting for the guests to leave. Somewhere I can just close my door and have a bit of private space. I think this will give me that space to keep my energy levels balanced so I am more able to fulfil my duties in a relaxed way.

Helen mentioned to me about the outbuildings (next to the Orange Tree carpark) that are to be developed. These are shared sleeping and washing facilities for the volunteers who come to stay and work with us. While here they also learn sustainability principles and have a bit more time to get to know themselves. In return for their work they receive accommodation and their meals. The staff room in the old chapel is for the teachers/ or staff from the courses who will hire the space, it won't be for the staff who actually work here.

I really do hope that you would consider this small extension, It will neaten up the end elevation of the chapel, is within the area of a previous extension and it will help me to develop this venture in a positive way into the future.

