

## **App 24/ 03962/LBC Ilkley Library, Station Rd, Ilkley**

### **Internal alterations to listed building**

Ilkley Civic Society is yet again disappointed to see such a poor quality planning application from an internal department within the council which contains a number of errors / omissions. Whilst supporting the principle of upgrading this listed building to provide more flexible and usable spaces and accepting this means some changes are necessary internally within the building. We make the following neutral comments-

The documentation appears to have been assembled in haste resulting in a number of missing areas of information and glaring errors. The building makes a 'contribution to the **Silsden** historic skyline' its plot is related to 'tenement layouts' according to the character assessment, clearly both factors irrelevant to Ilkley Library as are many of the other statements.

The 'statement of heritage impact' discusses the exterior and conservation area issues but totally ignores any reference to the historic significance of the internal layout and features and fails dismally to comply with CBMC guidance on preparing Heritage statements. No historical research is evident of the interior or discussion of significance.

The Heritage case refers to LBC and Conservation Area Consent, the latter which has not existed for many years!! In its summary is based entirely on the effect on the conservation area ignoring that this is a listed building.

The D&A statement leaves 2 areas of work as requiring further work/ confirmation which may change the proposal

Validation – we are puzzled as to how an application for LBC can be validated when NO elevations of the structural changes or the new staff counter have been provided. We also note the application form is dated 15<sup>th</sup> October the same date as the validation such prompt turnaround suggests to us priority has been given to this application to haste its progress?

The lack of elevations leaves us guessing as to the design of doors and architraves.

Application form – We note 'works to exterior' of a LB is noted as 'no' when clearly provision of a new kitchen and toilet area will involve creation of external flues for ventilation in locations highly visible from public footways. However small these interventions may be builders have a habit of creating ugly vent flues in locations easiest for construction and not the visibly least intrusive location. The elevations where these flues are likely to impact are clearly visible from public footpaths.

No information is provided in the application regarding the new ( or reused doors?) to the Reference Library and if reused how the existing opening will be blocked up?

No information is provided regarding the finger shelving to be removed on both sides of the library which we believe may be original but accept that some needs to be removed to create a flexible space. Removal of these finger shelves will create holes in the carpet flooring which will be difficult to patch up and may need a complete new flooring which may change the character of the internal space considerably.

No information is provided on the design of the new staff counter (a fixture).

We must ask what other works are proposed that have not been mentioned in this application that affect the listed building?

We conclude that the information provided fails to understand the existing historic significance of the interior of the building or show how the proposals will affect that significance.

On the basis of the information provided Ilkley Civic Society should recommend refusal until complete details of this proposal are submitted but makes the above neutral comments on this application in the hope the many detail issues are resolved.

ICS 11.11.24