

Additional submission of information for decision meeting 29th June, Item 4

I am providing this information on behalf of Clementhorpe Community Association, and would like to address and expand upon the points raised in the council officer report for Item 4: Applications for Community Right to Bid under the Localism Act 2011.

Point 18 states that this building has never been used by or for the community. It is true to say that the council has, until recently, not granted any public access for a number of years and that this building has been effectively locked away from the community. However, as stated in our original application, in the short time periods that local people have recently been allowed to visit, they have been enthusiastic in their use of the building as a heritage site, as highlighted by recent coverage in the York Evening Press. We believe that this constitutes a recent use of the building which furthers the social interests of the local community in relation to culture and heritage. It is a use that would then realistically be continued if the building is allowed to be preserved and bbc restored for community use. In addition the site had been used by York Museums Trust to store items of heritage. Although this was not widely known, further investigation has found that some of those living in the immediate vicinity of the Maltings were aware of this, and were proud of the local association with the museum. They saw the building as an extension of the museum and thought that there was a possibility that at some point in the future it might itself be renovated and opened up for public display. At the very least, they felt that it was in safe hands, and preserved as a heritage site for future generations. This represented a wider use that furthered the social interests of the wider York community, by providing valuable storage for museum artefacts. Finally, there is the cultural importance, heritage and impact of this building. As an important feature of the local landscape, the curiosity in which it has been held as a listed building is an important part of the cultural capital of the local area. We believe that this makes the Maltings a unique case, . Whereby the community's association with and value of the building extends far beyond their opportunities to enter inside it.

Further to Point 19, which discusses the possible community uses for the building as presented in the acv application, we would like to draw your attention to existing examples of malthouses which have been renovated and are now used to perform similar functions to those suggested. This illustrates that such uses are viable options for a building such as this:



1. The 18th century malt house at Harvington Hall in Worcestershire was restored and turned into a visitor and education centre, after gaining a heritage lottery grant. The architects involved won an award for their work on this project.
2. The Malthouse Project in Elsey's Yard, Bury St Edmonds, consists of a 17th century former Malt House which now provides a heritage centre and cafe, as well as rooms which can be hired by the community. It also provides volunteering opportunities to the local community and any income generated funds the social objectives of the project.
3. The Town Mill Trust in Lyme Regis acquired a disused malt house adjacent to their town mill site, and restored it as a gallery and community space.

We have had recent correspondence with English Heritage (Historic England) who have supported the existing development plans for this building, as they believe them to be a financially viable option. However, they do say that they "recognise your association's concerns about loss of intactness and preference for a use which does not involve alteration (which would be ideal if funding was demonstrably available for such an option)". We are asking City of York Council to allow the opportunity for such an option to be further explored, so that this building has a chance of being preserved in it's intact form, before aspects of its heritage are irrevocably alerted.

With reference to Point 20, we think that both as a historic and iconic site and in its recent use as a visitor attraction the building has done much to further the well-being and social interests of the community, and is therefore eligible for listing as an asset of community value.

In response to the representations provided by City of York Council, as landowners, in point 21, we wish to raise the following:

Re. Point 21a. We do not believe that there was sufficient community consultation regarding the pending sale of this building. We have seen little evidence of any full exploration of viable alternatives to residential accommodation, and believe this information to be inaccurate. The three examples given above illustrate that there are in fact clearly other viable options bringing a malt house back into public use.

Re. Points 21 b to d. The current contract negotiations of the council should not be considered directly relevant to the decision as to whether the building can be listed as an Asset of community value. However, there are many aspects of the process of this sale and the predetermination of decisions, relating to it, which are of concern to the Clementhorpe Community Association. We are currently raising these concerns via other avenues. Most recently, It was asked that the planning decision, in particular, be deferred until after a decision was made on the acv, but this request was denied.

We genuinely believe that there is a strong case for the potential for future community use of this building and a reasonable case for the building as a site which currently furthers the social interests of the local community. We respectfully ask that you consider the additional information in this document in relation to our application for Clementhorpe Maltings to be listed as an Asset of Community Value.

Regards,

Lucy Taylor
Vice Chair
Clementhorpe Community Association