

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**Date:** 20 October 2011      **Ward:** Guildhall  
**Team:** Major                      and **Parish:** Guildhall Planning Panel  
                Commercial Team

**Reference:** 11/02229/LBC  
**Application at:** Castle Museum The Castle York YO1 9RY  
**For:** Internal alteration to visitors toilets including removal of walls  
**By:** Mr Andrew Morrison  
**Application Type:** Listed Building Consent  
**Target Date:** 14 October 2011  
**Recommendation:** Approve

### 1.0 PROPOSAL

1.1 This application seeks listed building consent for internal works within three adjacent rooms at the Castle Museum. The proposed internal alterations relate to the existing visitor toilets on the ground floor of the former Female Prison, adjacent to the 'Kirkgate' display. The works include the reconfiguration of the existing layout of the toilet facilities and staff rest room within the original compartments. The existing staff rest room would become a disabled toilet/baby changing facility. The existing male and female visitor toilets are in poor condition, with exposed pipework and electrical conduit present. The intention is to upgrade the existing male and female toilets in a manner that would connect to the museum experience.

1.2 The style of the works would incorporate "highlights" relating to Victoriana and would provide a link with the museum displays, incorporating a display wall; a contemporary interpretation of a Victorian mosaic/tiled floor; graphics to the cubicles that link with the displays and Victorian themes; advertisement mirrors; pedestal basins and wall panelling to hide pipework and aid cleaning.

1.3 The Castle Museum; The Female Prison is a Grade I Listed Building situated within the Castle Precinct and within Central Historic Core Conservation Area No. 1. The Listed Building dates from dates from 1780-83 and was designed by Thomas Wilkinson and John Prince repeating the facade design of the Court House opposite by John Carr. The original building was altered in 1802 with the addition of the wings; the podium and steps were added between 1820 and 1850. Nineteenth century alterations are present by Peter Atkinson. The former Female Prison was modified and the yard roofed over as part of the conversion to a museum in 1938.

### JUSTIFICATION FOR WORKS

1.4 The agent has advised that there is no disabled facility in this part of the Museum, and the works in general would enhance the visitor experience.

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1.5 The application is presented to the West/ City Centre Planning Sub- Committee for a decision at the request of Cllr Brian Watson given the extent of the alterations to the listed building.

## **2.0 POLICY CONTEXT**

2.1 Development Plan Allocation:

Areas of Archaeological Interest GMS Constraints: City Centre Area 0006

Conservation Area GMS Constraints: Central Historic Core CONF

Listed Buildings GMS Constraints: Grade 1; Castle Museum The Female Prison Castle Precinct

Scheduled Ancient Monuments GMS Constraints: SMR No.13275; York Castle(including Clifford's Tower)

2.2 Policies:

CYHE4 Listed Buildings

## **3.0 CONSULTATIONS**

3.1 Design, Conservation and Sustainable Development- No objections subject to conditions

3.2 English Heritage- The application should be determined in accordance with national and local policy guidance, and on the basis of the Council's conservation advice.

3.3 Guildhall Planning Panel- No objections but have reservations about the recreation of an historic period that is misleading to users

## **4.0 APPRAISAL**

4.1 Key Issues

- Impact on the character and appearance of the listed building

## **POLICY CONTEXT**

4.2 Planning Policy Statement 5 " Planning for the Historic Environment " seeks to ensure that the special characteristics of listed buildings are not adversely affected by inappropriate alterations/ additions.

4.3 POLICY HE4 of the Local Plan relates specifically to listed buildings and states that consent for development in the immediate vicinity of listed buildings, demolition, internal and external alteration, and changes of use will only be granted where there is no adverse effect on the character, appearance or setting of the building.

## APPRAISAL

4.4 It is appreciated that the existing visitor toilets need to be updated and that there is a need for a disabled/ baby changing facility within this part of the museum as the existing facilities are located in Debtor's Prison wing, beyond the connecting concourse. In principle, the proposed works are reasonably justified and would result in an enhancement for visitors to the Castle Museum.

4.7 The proposed upgrade includes "styling" that compliments the Victorian character of the Kirkgate displays as the existing male and female toilets are utilitarian in character with visibly tired cubicles and fittings, with exposed pipework and electrical conduit. The proposed floor changes, wall tiling, suspended ceilings, moulded joinery, ventilation fans, and sanitary fittings would be acceptable. The removal of the existing toilet lobbies would not be a significant loss as they are a relatively modern intervention. The existing doors and associated joinery would be retained.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The proposed works would significantly improve the facilities in the Female Wing of the Castle Museum, complimenting the Kirkgate experience. The works would not harm the significance or special interest of the interior of the Listed Building and they would comply with Policies HE4 and GP1 of the Local Plan and national planning guidance contained in Planning Policy Statement 5 " Planning and the Historic Environment. " It is recommended that listed building consent is granted subject to conditions that cover approval of details and retention of historic features.

## COMMITTEE TO VISIT

### 6.0 RECOMMENDATION: Approve

1 TIMEL2 Development start within 3 yrs (LBC/CAC) -

2 PLANS1 Approved plans

3 Prior to the commencement of the works hereby approved, the following details shall be submitted for the written approval of the Local Planning Authority, and thereafter the works shall be implemented and retained in accordance with the approved details:

a) Further details of the design and method of fixing of the internal painted timber shutters to the window opening of the female visitor's toilet. The position of the internal shutters should take account of the inward opening vent present to the existing window.

b) Large scale details of the stud partition proposed adjacent to the existing cill and window opening to the disabled visitor's toilet.

c) Details of the replacement ventilation unit proposed to be inserted within the glass panes of the existing window to the male visitor's toilet.

Reason: To ensure that the details would be acceptable in the interests of the visual amenity and historical and architectural interest of the Listed Building

4 The existing entrance and store room doors and architraves to the female visitor's toilet and entrance door to the male visitor's toilet shall be retained in situ.

The existing tiled floor covering to the compartments shall remain in situ beneath the proposed new floor covering.

Reason: In the interests of the visual amenity and historical and architectural interest of the Listed Building

5 The arched opening at the entrance to the visitor toilets shall be made good following the removal of the existing modern partitions that form the existing lobbies to the toilet facilities to match the surrounding materials details and finishes.

Reason: In the interests of the visual amenity and historical and architectural interest of the Listed Building

6 The new timber panelled door to the new partition to the disabled visitor's toilet shall match the design of the existing timber panelled door to the female visitor's toilet.

Reason: In the interests of the visual amenity and historical and architectural interest of the Listed Building

## **7.0 INFORMATIVES:**

### **Notes to Applicant**

#### **1. REASON FOR APPROVAL**

In the opinion of the Local Planning Authority the proposal, subject to the conditions listed above, would not cause undue harm to interests of acknowledged importance,

with particular reference to the special interests of the listed building. As such, the proposal complies with Policies HE4 and GP1 of the City of York Development Control Local Plan ( 2005) ; and national planning guidance contained in Planning Policy Statement 5 "Planning for the Historic Environment".

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