



Bath Heritage Watchdog

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APPLICATION NUMBER: 19/00212/LBA

ADDRESS: 39 Milsom Street

PROPOSAL: External work to facilitate display of 1no. non illuminated fascia sign, 1no. non illuminated door sign, 1no. internally illuminated menu box and 1no. externally illuminated hanging sign (regularisation)

CASE OFFICER: Helen Ellison

DATE: 30 January 2019

COMMENT: OBJECTION

Bath Heritage Watchdog strongly objects to this application.

When determining all applications for new shopfronts and signage we ask that the following guidelines are observed.

The context, or general setting, of Bath should be understood, respected and reflected in any proposed work to shopfronts.

Design, materials and workmanship should be of the highest quality.

Any proposed or altered shopfront should be historically credible.

House styles which do not meet the requirements of style, lettering, materials and signs are not acceptable. Multiples should be required to adapt their proposals to the special conditions of the city.

Standard designs of any sort are not acceptable. They should be specifically designed for their context.

As the application acknowledges the offending signage has already been installed. Unauthorised works to a listed building are a criminal offence and cannot be condoned. The applicants cannot claim ignorance to this having gone through several previous listed building applications for the establishment of the restaurant. We therefore consider their complete disregard of this particularly concerning. Using retrospective applications shows disdain for the democratic planning processes.

FRONT SIGN

Whilst appreciating signage to the building is problematic, we do not support that installed. Whilst the name could be justified, the 'Bath Brasserie' lettering is considered excessive and superfluous. We would request this is removed and the stonework carefully and professionally restored.

The method of fixing appears to be very damaging. Such lettering, where permitted, should only be fixed via pin mountings. There is considerable concern as to the amount of damage 'tube' fixings will/have caused.

ABOVE DOOR SIGN

The 'Covering Letter' submitted with the application states that this sign will '*comprise traditional painted timber applied to the timber panel above the door....*'. This is somewhat confusing and appears to be saying that the signage will be painted, yet the drawing shows offset lettering.

We do not consider this sign desirable or necessary and should be removed from proposals.

MENU BOX

The proposed menu boxes are cumbersome and also straddle the rustication of the stonework. We would suggest something freestanding outside the door or, if one fixed to the stone is to be considered then it should sit between the lines of rustication.

HANGING SIGN

We do not favour the introduction of a hanging sign, but given the difficulty with signage to the building, would not object to something suitable.

The sign should be timber and traditionally signwritten. Illumination is unnecessary and should be removed from proposals.

SUMMARY

Somersetshire Buildings are Grade II* listed and form an important focal point in Milsom Street. It is architecturally detailed and it is argued that there is already too much clutter to the frontage in the form of planters, A boards etc. We are extremely concerned at the constant flagrant disregard for this unusual and important listed building and the legal planning process.

The works proposed are considered to be detrimental to the special architectural and historic character and interest of the listed building, adjacent listed buildings and the conservation area contrary to S16 and S72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Section 12 'Conserving & Enhancing the Historic Environment of the NPPF and Policies DW1, CP6, D1, D2, D3, D8, D9, D10, and HE1 of the Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan and should be refused.

The applicants should be given a very short timescale in which to remove the offending canopy and make good any damage caused by the fixings.