

Glossop & District Heritage Trust

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Supported by



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Patron Edward William Fitzalan Howard, 18th Duke of Norfolk
Chairman Anthony Wright

30/3/23

Development Control, High Peak Borough Council

Dear Sirs

Re HPK/2023/0087 Listed Building Consent – Market Hall Glossop SK13 8AR

This is a comment on behalf of Glossop and District Heritage Trust.

First of all, in view of the concerns we expressed about the previous Listed Building Consent application in respect of this scheme, we are pleased to see that this application is thorough and well-evidenced, as befits the heritage importance of these buildings. We were also pleased to be given the opportunity to visit and to make initial observations prior to the application.

Whilst there are still some uncertainties, we think the interior fabric of the two main rooms of the Town Hall, as it was before the removal of the ceilings in 2018, almost all dated from the mid to late 20th century. However, whether or not it carried over elements of the original style from 1842 its general appearance was not inconsistent with courts and assembly rooms of that date, and this should therefore be one of the yardsticks in determining what changes are acceptable or desirable.

The building must, though, be fit for whatever new purposes are envisaged, and this will require heating and ventilation to modern standards. If the alternatives are floor-mounted blown-air units or ceiling vents, we would favour the latter, for two reasons. Firstly, units of modern design at eye level would be much more visually intrusive and do much greater harm to the heritage value of the rooms. Secondly they would limit use of the floor space, especially if it is envisaged that the large room might be used as an auditorium, and therefore effect financial viability.

The existing radiators and pipes along the north wall probably date from the 1950s, have no decorative value, and are not in keeping with the overall style of the room. It would therefore make sense to remove them, creating small alcoves which are potentially useful, for instance for display cases.

The application makes reference to the final colour scheme. The present scheme in the main rooms appears to date essentially from 1955, but there would have been repainting after the substantial alterations in 1973 and the bright blue on the coving in particular looks like a very 1970s shade. Rather, therefore, than simply restoring it to that date, thought needs to be given to adopting a palette more in keeping with the building's original role as an early-Victorian court cum assembly room.

Yours faithfully

Roger Hargreaves, for Glossop and District Heritage Trust

