

Planning Statement: Proposed Illumination of Church Entrance Signs

Site Address: Elim Church, Ellison Street, Glossop SK13 8BX

Applicant:

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1. Introduction

This planning statement has been prepared in support of an application for advertisement consent for the internal illumination of signage at the entrance to Elim, Glossop. The proposal seeks to improve visibility and wayfinding for parishioners and visitors, while maintaining the church's heritage character and respecting local amenity and highway safety considerations.

2. Site and Surroundings

Elim, Glossop is not listed and is not in a Conservation area. The church sits close to the town centre, with vehicular and pedestrian access from Ellison St.

Currently, the entrance signage is unlit, resulting in limited visibility during evening services, winter months, and community events. The surrounding area is characterised by shops, offices, restaurants, train station and residential properties.

3. Description of the Proposal

The proposal involves the installation of modest, low-level lighting to illuminate the existing entrance signs on either side of the main access and the foot of the ramp to it. Key elements include:

- **Signage dimensions:** 0.6m circular metal-framed sign displaying the church name and logo
- **Lighting type:** Warm white internal LED lights
- **Illumination level:** Most of the light is absorbed by the acrylic side panels, with output at 100cd/m²
- **Operation:** Lighting to operate via a timer between dusk and midnight
- **Power supply:** Mains-fed, low-energy, energy-efficient LED fittings with minimal maintenance requirements.

4. Planning Policy Context

The proposal has been assessed against relevant national and local planning policy, including:

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** – Paragraphs 136–139 (Advertisements), which encourage well-designed, appropriately located signage that does not adversely affect amenity or public safety.
- **Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007**, as amended.
- **[Local Plan / Core Strategy Policy Numbers]** relating to design quality, heritage conservation, and amenity.
- **Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) Guidance** No ecological sensitivity has been noted.

5. Design and Amenity Considerations

The lighting will be subtle and sympathetic to the church's historic and architectural character. The fittings are compact and will be finished in a neutral colour to blend with their surroundings.

Illumination levels will be kept low to preserve the visual amenity of the area and minimise light pollution.

6. Highway Safety

The signage illumination will not cause glare or distraction to drivers on Ellison St. Illumination levels and design comply with ILP standards to avoid visibility hazards or confusion with traffic signage.

7. Sustainability and Energy Efficiency

The proposal makes use of low-energy LED technology, minimising power consumption and maintenance. Timers will ensure illumination operates only when necessary, supporting local sustainability goals.

8. Conclusion

The proposed lighting to church entrance signs represents a modest, well-considered enhancement to an existing community facility. It will improve safety and accessibility for visitors and parishioners, maintain the character of the site, and comply with relevant planning and advertisement control policies.

For these reasons, the proposal is considered to be acceptable in planning terms, and consent is respectfully sought.

Signed:

Peter Collard, Agent