

# Agenda Item 6

## SHEFFIELD CONSERVATION ADVISORY GROUP

### Meeting held 23rd October, 2012

PRESENT:	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
	Dr. Philip Booth (Chair)	Co-opted Member
	Mr. Tim Hale (Deputy Chair)	Sheffield Chamber of Commerce
	Prof. Clyde Binfield	20th Century Society
	Mr. Patrick Burns	Co-opted Member
	Mr. Howard Greaves	Hallamshire Historic Buildings Society
	Mr. Graham Hague	Victorian Society
	Mr. Stanley Jones	Hunter Archaeological Society
	Mr. Philip Moore	Sheffield Society of Architects

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#### 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Lee Barron (Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors), Mr. Rod Flint (Georgian Group), Mr. Bob Hawkins (Council for the Protection of Rural England), Dr. Malcolm Tait (University of Sheffield) and Dr. Alan Watson (Institution of Civil Engineers).

#### 2. **MINUTES,**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th September, 2012 were approved as a correct record and, arising therefrom, the Group (a) noted that:-

- (i) St John's Methodist Church, Sharrow Lane was not a listed building and was not situated within a conservation area;
- (ii) (A) the organ at the City Hall was a heritage asset,(B) it was in good condition and it was used regularly, and (C) although it had not been restored within the programme of restoration of the City Hall, it was maintained by a group of professional organists and (D) its estimated value was £1million;
- (iii) the Head of Planning would report to the next meeting on the unauthorised advertising hoardings at the TESCO site, facing the Wicker Arches;
- (iv) the auction of the Abbeydale Picture House would take place on 30th October next. The seats still in place would be part of the sale; and
- (iv) Mr. Hawkins would report, at the next meeting, on the significant changes which had been made to the roofs of crucible furnaces within the City, including the ones at Effingham Road and St. Philip's Road, and

(b) regretted the loss of St John's Methodist Church, Sharrow Lane, which was a characterful building in a distinct setting, with which it was very much of a piece.

3. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Group noted that there was nothing to report under this item of business.

4. **SHEFFIELD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN PANEL**

The Group noted that the next meeting of the Sheffield Sustainable Development and Design Panel on 8th November, 2012, had been cancelled, due to a lack of business.

5. **NEW STREET LIGHTING**

Ian Kirby and James Tweddle gave a presentation on the Streets Ahead Project which would improve the City's roads, pavements and streetscene, particularly with reference to the impact of the Project on listed lighting structures and the street lighting within conservation areas.

The Group thanked Mr. Kirby and Mr. Tweddle for their presentation and expressed the opinion that, in general terms, the likely impact of the Project appeared to be positive. The Group accepted that the listed Webb Patent Sewer Gas Lamps within the City would not provide white light, but their light level would be adequate. The Group requested that information be provided, regarding the proposals for road surface treatment within the Project and that the effect of the Project on heritage assets and conservation areas, be made a regular item of business at its future meetings. The Group expressed regret that the cast iron lamps on Council estates, within the City, were not salvageable due to their condition.

6. **HEAD OF PLANNING'S REPORT**

The Head of Planning reported that :-

- (a)(i) English Heritage had carried out a survey of twenty metal trades buildings at risk, within the City;
  - (ii) a certain amount of funding was available, to enable the owners of properties at risk to carry out repairs;
  - (iii) the Kelham Island, Well Meadows and Sheffield General Cemetery Conservation Areas, were at risk; and
  - (iv) Mr. Bob Hawkins would provide up-to-date information on the these matters, at the next meeting;
- (b) a crucible furnace at 2 Topside, Grenoside had been added to the Statutory List; and
- (c) the mausoleum of the Bright family, at Rodside, Stannington, which had been demolished, was located within the Peak Park.

The Group noted the information.

7. **HERITAGE ASSETS**

The Group considered the following applications for planning permission for development affecting Heritage Assets and made the observations stated:-

- (a) **Demolition of the Edwardian Extension of the former Jessop Hospital for Women and the construction of a five storey plus basement**

**building to provide up to 19,725 sq. m. of educational floorspace, plus landscaping and servicing on site of Jessop's Hospital For Women, Leavy Greave Road (Case Number: 12/02874/LBC & 12/02873/FUL).**

The Group deplored the proposal to demolish the Edwardian Building, which was not simply an extension to the Victorian building, but had been a building in its own right with a distinct contribution to the Hospital. Apart from its contribution as part of the historic hospital, the Edwardian wing made an important impact on the townscape of Brook Hill, which was all the more important because of the demolition of the 1930s St George's Wing. The Group considered the proposed replacement building to be unsatisfactory in both massing and detail in its relation to the setting of the Victorian wing of the hospital, which it would overwhelm, and the Grade II\* St George's Church. The Group did not think that all the options, either for locating the new Engineering Building on another site, or for developing the site while retaining the Edwardian wing, had been properly explored. There appeared to be some inefficiencies in the use of space in the proposed building, which, if eliminated, could ensure the retention of the Edwardian wing. The Group also noted that since the beginning of the century, very few listed buildings had been demolished and none as important as the Jessop Edwardian wing. The Group requested the Chair to write to the Head of Planning, stating the Group's objections to the scheme and to request a meeting with John Mothersole, Chief Executive and Simon Green, Head of Place, Sheffield City Council.

(b) **Internal alterations including removal of internal walls and external repairs including the formation of 2 new entrances at former Head Post Office Fitzalan Square (Case Number: 12/02757/LBC)**

The Group welcomed the proposal to bring the building back into use and to repair it. The Group considered that the intended use was suitable, as it preserved the character of the building. The Group had no objection, in principle, to the scheme, provided that the development was in keeping with the original condition of the building, to the satisfaction of the Head of Planning.

## 8. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Members of the Group reported on developments affecting Heritage Assets and Conservation Areas and the Group noted that:-

- (a) the Head of Planning would investigate and report on (i) the condition of the community monument at the Almshouses, close to Dore Station and (ii) an unauthorised door at one of the Almshouses; and
- (b) The Victorian Society had recently published 'Building Schools for

Sheffield 1870-1914'.

(NOTE: The above minutes are subject to amendment at a future meeting)