

HERITAGE STATEMENT

Ref: 183037 – Renew window
Littlehampton Quaker Meeting House
23 Church Street
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 5EL

August 2019

THE BUILDING

23 Church Street was originally built as a school house in mid-1830's and, after the school fell out of use, became a religious building. The Quakers have been formally using this building since 1965 and the building has been designated as Grade II listed under List Entry Number 1027811 since August 1975. The building also falls within the Littlehampton (East Street) Conservation Area as of July 1994. The property has been subject to a number of Planning Applications within its history:

- LU/335/18/L – Approved
Strengthen the first floor floor structure
- LU/82/18/PL – Approved Conditionally
Internal and external alterations to alter wheelchair access
- LU/152/17/PL – Approved conditionally
Internal & external alterations to alter wheelchair access
- LU/325/01/L – Approved conditionally
Application for listed Building consent for internal alterations to form disabled WC facilities
- LU/219/71/ADV – Approved conditionally
Painted lettering on front of building
- LU/343/68 – Approved conditionally
New toilet kitchen and entrance
- LU/57/68 – Permitted Development
Installation of new toilet accommodation and kitchen

CURRENT CONDITION AND USE

The building is currently used as the Littlehampton Friends Meeting House for the Quakers. The majority of building is in good condition and is currently being improved by Internal and external works to improve disabled access as well as strengthening of the 1st floor floor structure.

During these works, it as been identified when removing the wall paper, that the internal walls had been covered up with plasterboard which had not allowed the existing walls to breathe. Therefore, the plasterboard was rotten and deteriorating. It was also noted that the ground floor ceiling had been covered in plasterboard which had also come to the end of its life. It is believed that this work had been carried out circa 1968 before the listing of the property in 1975.

THE PROPOSED WORKS

Replacement existing rotten modern plasterboard and skim coat plaster to the internal walls, with Saviot breathable board with Lime plaster and to replacement of the ground floor ceiling plasterboard.

At our request Mr Martyn White met with the Project Manager Emma Weaver and the Contractor on site on Tuesday 24th September to review and discuss the situation.

Mr White reviewed the works and had the following comments:

Walls

The removal of the modern plaster board and skim plaster which had been detrimental to the building and the replacement of the Saviot wood wool board and lime plaster would significantly improve the building. He confirmed he would support this application.

Ceiling

Works to strengthen the FF had already gained approval under LU/335/18/. The method of strengthening was from above via a complex system that involved numbering of floorboards to ensure that the floorboards were put back in their original position. During the works it was felt that strengthening of the floor from below was not only a more sensible option but also allow the replacement of a defunct ceiling plasterboard.

Mr White agreed that this had been a better solution. He confirmed that he would support this application.

CONCLUSION

As agreed by Martyn White, Conservation Officer for Arun the works that had been carried out involved the removal of a modern material and the replacement of a better modern material that would allow the existing fabric of the building breathe and therefore was an improvement and would obtain LBC.

Emma Weaver
Acting as Agent on behalf of **Littlehampton Religious Society of Friends**