ADC Planning Consultation
Response from the Historic Buildings Adviser

Application Number	LU/333/14/HH
Address	9 Granville Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5JU
Description	Proposed first floor extension, including new first floor side elevation window. This application may be determined by Littlehampton Town Council under delegated powers.
Case Officer	Damian Sullivan
Site Visit	

Objection
Whilst this building is not statutory protected, it is formally recognized by the planning authority as a building of 'special character'. As such it represents a contribution to the architectural interest of Littlehampton town and enhances its local streetscape. In its current form the building also retains architectural integrity and character befitting of its period and as such remains a positive feature of the area.

Recent government policy also recognizes the value of locally designated buildings which are important and meaningful to local communities.

The proposals to extend and alter the building's external appearance are likely to have a significant and detrimental impact on the character of the building and as a consequence devalue both it and the street scene. The principal concern here is not so much the additions themselves which have the potential to be sympathetic, but the corresponding fenestration and treatment of the windows.

The single storey addition for example, with three large square doors and a bank of six velux windows is compromised by these openings which have little or no relation to the proportions of the existing fenestration. They do not have to be the same, or leaded for that matter, but they should correspond better. The second floor extension is more successful, though would benefit without the ground floor addition wrapping around the existing corner.

The most harmful aspect of the scheme is the replacement of all the windows in white UPVC. These are likely to alter the appearance of the building in a detrimental manner, eroding its character and aesthetic appreciation. It will almost certainly result in the building being devalued and could potentially compromise its status as a building of special character. This of course is in conflict with the reason for local designation which seeks the sympathetic enhancement of the historic environment.

Please note: The observations and comments expressed on this sheet are the views of the consultee concerned and are in no way binding on either the Council or its senior officers when making a decision on the application. Applicants or their agents should contact the case officer before acting on these views.

On this basis and for the reasons above the scheme cannot be supported.

Ian Wightman
Senior Historic Buildings Adviser
4 December 2014

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