



## LONDON OFFICE

Ms Sarita Bishop  
Surrey Heath Borough Council  
Surrey Heath House  
Knoll Road  
Camberley  
GU15 3HD

Direct Dial [REDACTED]

Our ref: 22/0820/LLB; 22/0821/FFU

1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

Dear Ms Bishop

**Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2015  
& T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015  
& Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990**

**GARRISON CHURCH OF SANTA BARBARA, DEEPCUT BRIDGE ROAD,  
DEEPCUT, CAMBERLEY, SURREY GU16 6RS  
Application Nos 22/0820/LLB; 22/0821/FFU**

Thank you for your letters of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 regarding the above applications for listed building consent and planning permission. On the basis of the information available to date, we offer the following advice to assist your authority in determining the applications.

### Historic England Advice

Historic England provided written pre-application advice to the Guildford Diocese Advisory Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 (ref. PA01185425). At that time, we raised no objection to the proposals.

As the current scheme reflects that previously proposed, we repeat here our former considerations.

### Significance of the Garrison Church of Santa Barbara

Built in corrugated iron sheeting in 1901, St Barbara's Church stands today as an extremely rare example of a prefabricated garrison church, a building type that is becoming increasingly uncommon. Although designed as a structure not intended to last, the church has survived virtually intact: a testament to the high quality of the building's construction and materials.

The church's architectural significance is accompanied by its historical interest, enshrined in the great number of memorials and commemorative art works related to



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the local regiments which enrich its plain interior. The varied heritage values of St Barbara's Church are reflected in its statutory listing at Grade II.

### Impact of the Proposal on the Significance of the Church

The proposal would involve the construction of a community hall within the churchyard, to the north of the existing building.

Designed in a contemporary language and materiality, complementary to the historic character of the church, the new structure would accommodate a number of public services needed by the church. Accordingly, it is proposed to make the hall directly accessible from its north transept through a glazed link corridor, involving the alteration of an original window to allow for an interconnecting door to be formed beneath. The proposed change of an original component of the listed building would result in some degree of less than substantial harm to its architectural significance.

### Relevant Policy and Legislation

The statutory requirements set out in section 66 of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to pay special regard to the desirability of preserving a listed building or its setting.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires at paragraph 199 that when considering the impact of a proposed development on a heritage asset's significance, great weight should be given to its conservation: the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be.

In addition, paragraph 200 of the framework points out that harm to the significance of heritage assets would need clear and convincing justification; while paragraph 202 sets out that where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits accruing from the proposal.

### Historic England Position

In our view, the design of the hall would introduce an appropriate contemporary idiom, thus avoiding incongruous and confusing pastiches, while sensitively relating to the host building in terms of hierarchy of scale and massing.

The proposed building displays an appropriately distinctive but restrained design. In particular, the black aluminium wall cladding, which echoes the 'industrial' character of the church's white-painted corrugated iron sheeting, succeeds in keeping the new structure visually recessive by the introduction of a complementary dark tone.





Historic England

The loss of a limited section of an original window to accommodate the new link doors, while resulting in some degree of less than substantial harm to the significance of the listed building, would allow for the provision of a well-designed functional annex sympathetic to the character of the listed building, with no adverse impact on the historic setting.

In addition, the accruing limited heritage harm could be considered to be outweighed by the public benefits of providing much-needed basic services that will help secure the future community use of the building, thus avoiding risks for its long-term conservation.

### **Recommendation**

Historic England has no objection to the applications on heritage grounds.

Your authority should take these representations into account in determining the applications. If there are any material changes to the proposals, or you would like further advice, please contact us.

Please advise us of the decisions in due course.

Yours sincerely

Luciana Gallo

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London and South East Regions Group



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