

Conservation Officer (Mr Paul Grundy) comments for: 23/00928/FUL

Proposal: Extension to provide new entrance lobby, associated parking reconfiguration and tarmac

Site: St Peters Roman Catholic Church, Leicester Road, Hinckley

Date Submitted: 01/11/2023

This proposal is for an extension to the front of the church and an associated minor reconfiguration of the car park. There have been multiple phases of development upon the site and the current church building dates from the 1990s. A First World War memorial was unveiled on the site in 1922, with Second World War additions, and it was recently listed as a structure of special historic and architectural interest (at grade II). It is currently situated within a small, landscaped area located c.40m north of the entrance of the church building, and due to its largely undeveloped immediate surroundings its purpose and interest can be fully appreciated.

Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 places a duty on the local planning authority when determining applications for development which affects a listed building or its setting to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural and historic interest which it possesses.

Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides the national policy on conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Paragraphs 199-202 of the NPPF require great weight to be given to the conservation of designated heritage assets when considering the impact of a proposed development on its significance, for any harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset to have clear and convincing justification, and for that harm to be weighed against the public benefits of a proposal.

Policies DM11 and DM12 of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD seek to protect and enhance the historic environment and heritage assets. All proposals for development affecting the setting of listed buildings will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that the proposals are compatible with the significance of the building and its setting.

In my opinion the proposed front extension is of a moderate scale and footprint and reflects the form and appearance of the existing church building. Due to its appropriate design and the intervening distance between the proposed extension, the church building and the war memorial it is considered that the proposal would have no direct physical impact upon the war memorial, nor would it adversely alter its setting. Therefore, the proposal would be compatible with the significance of the grade II listed war memorial and its setting, and as a result the proposal would comply with Policies DM11 and DM12 of the SADMP, section 16 of the NPPF and the statutory duty of section 66 of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

