

Conservation Officer (Paul Grundy) comments for: 23/00935/LBC

Proposal: Inscription of name of a fallen soldier to the War Memorial

Site: War Memorial, Church Street, Burbage

Date Submitted: 01/11/2023

The Burbage War Memorial is a grade II listed structure due to its historic interest as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on the local community and the sacrifice it made in the conflicts of the C20. In addition, it has architectural interest due to its design, including the well-sculpted marble figure of a mourning soldier.

This proposal seeks listed building consent to inscribe an additional name of a fallen soldier upon the memorial.

Section 16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 places a duty on the local planning authority when considering whether to grant listed building consent to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the 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 extensions and alterations of listed buildings will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that the proposals are compatible with the significance of the building.

Appropriate research undertaken by the Burbage Heritage Group which has led to the proposal to add the name of Sgt George Henry Smith to the war memorial. Sgt Smith was sadly reported as missing in action on 18th March 1945. The inscription would read SGT. G H SMITH LEICS REGT. There is an adequate space within the 1939-1945 section of the memorial and technical information submitted with the application confirms that the inscription would be undertaken by a skilled mason who has previously inscribed names upon the war memorial, to the same technical specification.

Overall, it is considered that the proposed minor works are justified, appropriately specified and would be compatible with the special historic and architectural interest of the war memorial ensuring the significance of this grade II listed building is retained. Therefore, the proposal complies with Policies DM11 and DM12 of the SADMP, section 16 of the NPPF and the statutory duty of Section 16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.