Design Access and Heritage Statement

Introduction

This Application seeks to replace a modern front door to The Hempbutt in Alton.

Mr Philip Harding of Churnet Valley Joinery Ltd Is acting as agent for the owners Mr Brian Knox and Mrs Christine Ball.

Location:

The Hempbutt
Knight Lane
Alton
Staffordshire
ST10 4BJ

The Hempbutt is a Grade II listed building that lies within the Alton and Farley conservation area. Its listing states:

ALTON C.P. KNIGHT LANE (South-east side) SK 0642-0742 13/40 The Hempbutt II

House. Mid to late C18 with early C19 alterations and additions. Ashlar with herringbone tooling, some edged; plain tile roof with coped verges; brick integral end stack and ridge stack. Aligned north-south facing east, extended to the south in the C19. 2 storeys with coved eaves band; 6 bays, casements; the 3 right hand bays comprised the C18 house, it has a central door and central blind window, both with 4-centred head and chamfered surround. Included as a complete example.

Included with this application are:

1. Elevation photograph front of property
2. Elevation drawing - existing
3. Elevation drawing - proposed
4. Proposed door drawing
5. Proposed door detailed section drawing
6. Appendix A - other local four-centred head doorways.

Heritage

The Hempbutt was built mid to late C18 with later alterations and additions. The property has a linear layout one room deep. The front elevation faces East onto gardens and is clearly visible from Knight Lane. The fenestration and front door therefore contribute greatly to the street scene and its setting within the conservation area. The windows are original, in good working order and a great historical asset. They are organised into bays of 3 flush casements with two horizontal glazing bars each. The stone doorway surround has a four centred head and chamfered surround. The front door and its frame are a late C19 alteration. Perhaps for reasons of economy the door has been made with a square head and the four centred arch above filled in.

Design

The proposed new door and frame will not be a like-for like replacement. Alton and Farley conservation area puts emphasis on the look and character of its historic buildings. The replacement door and frame will seek to rectify an inappropriate alteration and will not cause loss to any original features of the property.

No evidence can be found regarding the original front door. The height at the apex of the stone arch is 2m, this is sufficiently low enough to rule out any possibility of a fan light having been incorporated into the original design. In fact the head of the existing door frame is squared off at the arch's springing point about 1.75m and severely restricts access.

There are a couple of doorways in Alton with a four centred arch and without fan lights. These seem to the author to be original, one at Rose Cottage on Lime Kiln lane and another at number 16 Highstreet. Appendix A shows both these doors. Both have chamfered stone surrounds very similar to that of The Hempbutt. One with glazed panels the other without. The proposed doorway for The Hempbutt is a solid timber door with no glazing. The reception room it provides access to has ample and generous windows and it is therefore assumed the original door design would not have sought to provide any additional lighting. The applied external beading in the proposed doors design is a traditional feature and present on the door at Rose cottage and to the door's lower solid portion of number 16 Highstreet. The proposed door will be made of European Oak and oiled to allow this traditional timber to grey and age over time. This is quite different to a modern varnish or stain, the owners do not want the appearance of a modern Oak door.

Access

Changing the existing doorway will improve the dwelling's main access by raising the head of the door frame.