

From: [Curley, Jane](mailto:Curley.Jane)
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](mailto:Planning.Comments(SMDC))
Subject: FW: Scaremaze: Internal Note
Date: 07 December 2020 11:15:38

From: Bayliss, Gillian <Gillian.Bayliss@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 November 2020 18:16
To: Curley, Jane <jane.curley@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk>
Cc: 'Taylor, Julie' <Julie.Taylor@HistoricEngland.org.uk>
Subject: Scaremaze: Internal Note

Alton Towers, Scaremaze Attraction and Heritage Tour

Hi Jane,

We don't appear to have consulted Historic England (Amenity Societies have been consulted but not required).

Can we catch up with this one when you get chance? I am really at a loss to understand this application, it is totally confusing. It really needs to be submitted by a conservation accredited architect who understands the information required – defining significance of the relevant parts of the building and impact. The Heritage Statement makes judgements such as 'the interiors hold limited heritage value in many areas' and talks about 'conservation deficit' but there is no explanation/justification of this. This is a Grade II* Listed Building and this proposal, whilst largely stand-alone, has a substantial impact on the interior and our appreciation of it, and there are external changes. We also know that some features are fixed. It is not clear what elements are to be permanent and what to be removed each year.

- 3 Scare Mazes to be open Oct to park close in November – one is showing a bridge access on the NE elevation (Proposed Elevation Sheet 5). No real details but looks totally unacceptable
- Heritage Route: Self-navigating with 'Infographic Signage'?. The Long Gallery, Family Dining Room and Banqueting Hall will be closed from 17th August until end of November for Christmas. I have serious concerns about utilising the banqueting hall has part of the scare maze and taking it out of use for public view in mid-August. This is a unique, stained glass window which is currently being restored along with a grand fireplace/ceiling. It is the heart of the building.

We need a statement of heritage significance prepared by a qualified professional for the area's to be affected by the proposal and this should inform the route of the scaremazes – rather than the justification trying to fit around what has already been carried out. The scaremazes should be located in the areas of lower heritage significance and minimise impact on the areas of high significance – including the long gallery, dining room and banqueting room. If the heritage route is to try to address some of the heritage harm then it needs to be a serious proposition with details of signage and other interpretation.

Previously we had talked about flexible zones where the mazes could be installed with an approved methodology for fixing and specification, including details of servicing.

I assume that the stables have been taken out of this proposal?

I don't feel that we can progress this application with the level of detail submitted.

Gill Bayliss MA (Arch Con), MA (Env Planning) IHBC RTPI

Senior Conservation Officer

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council & High Peak Borough Council

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