

From: [Joanne Needham](#)
To: [Planning \(SMDC\); lisa.li@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk; smdc@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk](#)
Subject: Re: SMD/2021/0590 - 11 High Street, Alton, Staffordshire, ST10 4AQ - SPAB Response
Date: 14 October 2021 16:48:49

Dear Ms Li,

Application ref: SMD/2021/0590
Address: 11 High Street, Alton, Staffordshire, ST10 4AQ
Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Painting of the front elevation of the property with mid/light grey masonry paint.
our ref: SPAB/JN/169800/21

Thank you for consulting the SPAB on the above application. Having reviewed the documents available on your Council's website we now offer the following advice.

SPAB Advice

The Society understands that the applicant wishes to paint the front elevation of the property, in part to restore the building back to a colour similar to what they believe it to have painted in the 1920s. While the appearance of the property is important, we would encourage the applicant to prioritise the health of the building and its fabric over aesthetics. In the photographs provided the existing render appears darker in some areas and lighter in others. This suggests that there may be water/moisture trapped in the walls, that they are not drying properly and may be wet/experiencing damp. If this is the case, applying a paint such as that which is proposed, may exacerbate an existing problem (by not allowing the walls to dry out and water/moisture to escape) or create new problems in other areas.

Before making any decisions about applying a paint (or any other surface coating) over the existing elevation, we advise it would be judicious to correctly identify the type and composition of the existing render. Once this has been established it will then be possible to better understand the potential impacts of the proposed painting.

We would strongly encourage the applicant to seek advice from the Council's specialist conservation advisor.

The Society also runs a free and confidential Technical Advice Line ([020 7456 0916](tel:02074560916), Weekdays 9.30am-12.30pm) which is open to anybody with a technical enquiry relating to old buildings. The applicant may wish to telephone the line should they consider it helpful to discuss the case with one of our technical advisors.
Webpage: [SPAB Technical Advice Line](#)

We trust that this response is helpful.

Regards,

Joanne Needham
Casework Officer
07747 734390
(Usual working days: Mon,
Tues, Wed)
The Society for the Protection
of Ancient Buildings
37 Spital Square, London E1
6DY
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