

From: [Jane Curley](#)
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: FW: SMD/2024/0016
Date: 29 April 2024 16:39:55
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Jane Curley Senior Planning Officer (Majors and Commercial)

Planning

High Peak Borough Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

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From: Emily Holland
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 1:47 PM
To: Jane Curley
Subject: SMD/2024/0016

Hi Jane,

Alton Towers, Farley Lane, Staffordshire.

Whilst the principle or idea of a temporary stage poses few issues, the repeating of a temporary permission in fact simply creates a permanent addition.

I have viewed the photographs of the area, and notwithstanding my visit to the site over 12 months ago, the up to date photographs show a very damaged and tired area not looked after once use of the stage has ceased between performances or events. The photographs depict accurately the exposed vicinity in direct relation to the approach to the frontage of the Towers themselves, adjacent listed buildings and extensive associated setting. It is concerning to see additional platform walkways installed onto the ground to facilitate use, this shows accelerated damage and unsightly conditions unbecoming to a historic designed parkland.

Additional block plans show the stage and accessories to have a winter placement among features at Fountain Square. This placement offers some cohesion to this concept as it has *some* relationship between other small buildings of a similar nature to facilitate visitors and users such as W/C, food and drink building and offers a simple but interesting layout. However, it does not appear the winter placement is ever engaged.

Due to the damage and severe deterioration of the landscape in this open vicinity, with no clear mitigation or management of this, it is creating a depreciated 'gap' in the landscape and therefore setting. In terms of heritage harm due to this visual disruption and lack of care resulting in further damage this would equate to a level of harm. Whilst this may be on the lower end and there may be few public benefits to the concept of a pop-up stage, it is advised that a temporary permission should now have a clear end date and that the winter placement is utilised in the interim to provide some relief to this area. It is clear from the images that this vicinity potentially may not recover fully this

year due to the time of season and consequently it will receive additional deterioration before the new year. The latter does not have the preservation of a historic landscape in mind.

I suggest inviting condition to confirm confirmation that winter placement of the pop-up stage will be engaged as advised above. A clear end date for this structure and its set up must also be confirmed. In addition to this, a short programme of repair and maintenance for this vicinity once the end date of use has been reached, to ensure this area of the park returns to its original condition to relieve the current physical harm imposed and harm on the setting and views.

Thanks

In your communications with me please always quote the planning reference number if you have one.

-
Please note, due to work levels at this current time I may not be able to respond to your query immediately, however, I shall endeavour to do so as soon as possible.

Emily Holland. Principal Conservation Officer.

Development Services.

High Peak Borough Council / Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

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