
From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
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To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0418 Site Address: Faber Roman Catholic Primary School Cotton Lane Cotton
Staffordshire ST10 3DN Stoke On Trent Comments by: Nick Harrison

From:

Sawrey Lodge
Cotton Lane
Cotton
Stoke on Trent

ST10 3DN

Submission: Neither

Comments: I wish to point out a few issues with this application:

As is usual with an application, the immediate neighbours have been consulted - including the owner/occupier of 'Greystones'. Before the schoolmaster's house was reincorporated into the school it was rented out to private tenants who named the house 'Greystones'. The house is again part of the school. The applicants (the governors) have effectively written to themselves regarding their application!

Part of the proposal is to take down the porous concrete block chimney top of the Northern chimney and rebuild it with Hollington stone to 'restore the chimney to its original aesthetic'. There is a strong argument that the concrete block additions to the chimneys were added in the 20th century to improve the draught for the, then necessary, coal fires. The original chimneys terminated at the level below the concrete blocks, so why not simply remove the concrete block additions and make the chimney weather-tight at the original level? The addition of the Hollington stone top seems unnecessarily expensive and architecturally unjustified (Pugin). There is no mention in the application of the central chimney stack on the house. This has an identical porous concrete block addition and looks to be in an equally parlous condition. Whilst going to the effort of scaffolding the building, would it not make sense to address this chimney too? There seems little point in improving the aesthetic of one chimney and leaving an equally ugly one next to it!

Lastly, if these proposals are intended to improve damp conditions within the school, one issue seems to have been overlooked entirely - the Southern gable of the main red brick school is suffering with extreme damp issues - as manifested by the mould and crumbling plaster within the classroom. Surely it would be better to address this, rather than waste money rebuilding a chimney top that does not need rebuilding and would be better if it were simply removed?

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