

Greater Cambridge Share Planning Service



By Online Planning Register

20/11/2023

Dear Adam

Cambridge Past, Present & Future
Wandlebury Country Park
Cambridge CB22 3AE
Phone 01223 - 243830
www.cambridgeppf.org

Response to extensions to 173 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge

Cambridge Past, Present & Future is Cambridge's largest civic society. We are a charity run by local people who are passionate about where they live. We operate in the greater Cambridge area and working with our members, supporters and volunteers we:

- Are dedicated to protecting and enhancing the green setting of Cambridge for people and nature.
- Care about Cambridge and are an independent voice for quality of life in the strategic planning of Greater Cambridge.
- Are working to protect, celebrate and improve the important built heritage of the Cambridge area.
- Own and care for green spaces and historic buildings in and around the city for people and nature, including Wandlebury Country Park, Coton Countryside Reserve, Cambridge Leper Chapel & Barnwell Meadows, Bourn Windmill and Hinxton Watermill.

This property is a Building of Local Interest. Policy 62 supports development which retains the significance, appearance, character and setting of the local heritage asset. NPPF paragraph 194 requires the applicant to describe the significance of any heritage asset affected. It is important that sufficient information is provided with the application to assess the impact of the proposal on the heritage asset.

The house was built in the 1930s and designed by Cambridge architect H C Hughes. Hughes lived and is buried in Grantchester Churchyard. Hughes was also a conservationist and was instrumental in the foundation of the Cambridge Preservation Society, the forerunner to Cambridge Past, Present & Future.

Hughes is best known for his modernist buildings of the 1930s for which he is responsible for a number across the city. This house is of an unusual design with different colours of brick layers and an unusual front door frame. It was also double glazed from the beginning which is unusual for that time. The property is also known as Kapitsa House after Pyotr Kapitsa, a Russian physicist (1894-1984) who allowed the house to be used by the Soviet Academy of Sciences for visiting scientists.

As currently submitted, the application is not supported by a Design and Access Statement or Heritage Assessment, which makes it difficult to assess the impact of the extensions on the significance of this historical building.

In view of the architectural and historic importance of this dwelling we consider that both these documents need to be submitted before this application can be properly assessed.

I trust that you will take our comments into consideration and inform me when the documents are available.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Nicholas

Principal Planning Officer