

Greater Cambridge Share Planning Service



Cambridge Past, Present & Future
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By Online Planning Register

11/11/2024

Dear Laise

Response to 24/03829/HFUL | Creation of new driveway access and parking area. | 73-75 High Street Grantchester

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.

Cambridge Past, Present & Future object to the development as the creation of a driveway in this location does not comply with Local Plan policy NH/14. The opening up of the site through the removal of the hedgerow and the creation of a driveway with hard surfacing does not enhance the significance of the conservation area.

The site lies within the Grantchester Conservation Area. Adopted policy NH/14 (Heritage Assets) supports development which sustains and enhances the special character and distinctiveness of the historic environment and the significance of Conservation Areas.

The Conservation Area Appraisal explains how "Mill Way opens out to the west to give valuable views across the yard and paddocks of Manor Farm to the church beyond, before following a gentle bend past the orchard, turning into the High Street at the church."

This short section of Mill Way acts as a gateway into the centre of the village. The trees and hedgerows on the northern side of the road and the trees in the church yard, enclose the views along the road before the road bends, becoming the High Street, which is lined by houses.

The area of the application site is characterised by the trees and hedgerows, the church and its grounds. This rural character and sense of enclosure contributes to the significance of this conservation area. The application, for which the removal of the hedgerow and creation of an accessway has already taken place, and the introduction of hard surfacing, 'blows a hole' in the street frontage, loses the enclosed rural character and introduces urban features.

We therefore consider that the application should be refused, and action is taken to ensure the reinstatement of the hedgerow.

I trust that you will take our comments into consideration.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Nicholas

Principal Planning Officer