

CUMBERLAND COUNCIL
CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Proposal: External alterations including replacement of existing windows to the rear and doors to the front and rear; replacement of two roof lights to the front elevation & reinstatement of a third roof light to the front elevation; reinstating & replacing windows to front elevation at street level; demolition of a lean-to passageway structure to rear & replacement with a new wider porch

Address: 70 Main Street, Egremont

Reference: 4/24/2370/0F1

Date: 04/01/25

Description: This building is a red sandstone mid terrace of two storeys. It appears to be roughly contemporary with the Market Hall and Town Hall (1880s)

Conclusion: Request further information

Assessment:

- The works to the rear depart from Copeland area's Conservation Area Design Guide in proposing plastic windows and a door. However, the rear is enclosed and not visible to the conservation area, and the proposed units will match the existing repainted windows in colour, feature external bars. I would their impact is neutral on the conservation area, the setting of the neighbouring listed building, and negligible on the significance of the building itself, which should be considered a non-designated heritage asset of relatively low significance.
- The front cellar windows are slightly different as they do more obviously sit within the conservation area, the setting of the listed Town Hall, and are juxtaposed with timber windows above. For the sake of unity and impact on these heritage assets, I suggest use of timber (Accoya and Douglas Fir, among others, can be very rot-resistant if this is a concern).
- The existing single story rear extension doesn't appear particularly sensitive, and the replacement porch appears to be an improvement. The proposal to redo the roof using existing slate / making up with new to match seems neutral in impact, and the replacement/new rooflights on the front elevation I would consider negligible in impact, and justified by the improved performance compared with the existing.

Summary: Additional information submitted in December 2024 shows that all the front elevation windows will be 1.6m high sliding sashes. In the case of the cellar window(s), I presume the intention is to use a timber window of a different design

Relevant Policies and Guidance:

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 establishes a need "in considering whether to grant listed building consent for any works [for the Local Planning Authority to] have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special

architectural or historic interest” [Section 16(2)]. This requirement also applies to the granting of planning permission affecting a listing building or its setting [Section 66(1)].

Section 72 of the 1990 Act states that “special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of [a conservation] area.”

Paragraph 139 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) asserts that “Development that is not well designed should be refused”.

NPPF para. 203 states that “In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation...”

NPPF para. 205 states, in the case of designated heritage assets, “great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation”, irrespective of whether potential harm is substantial, less-than-substantial, or total loss. Where harm to a designated heritage asset is less-than-substantial, it should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal (para. 208).

Paragraph 209 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states the effect on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account when making decisions.

Opportunities should be sought for new development within conservation areas and the settings of heritage assets that enhances or better reveals their significance. (para. 212)

Referring to assets in a conservation area, NPPF para. 213 states that loss of an element that makes a positive contribution to a conservation area should be treated as either substantial (under para. 206-7) or less-than-substantial harm (under paragraph 208).

The Copeland area’s Local Plan contains a number of relevant policies:

- BE1 provides for the preservation and enhancement of built heritage assets by:
 - Requiring a heritage impact assessment or heritage statement where the proposal would affect a heritage asset;
 - Giving great weight to the conservation of Copeland’s designated heritage assets when decision making;
 - Ensuring that new development is sympathetic to local character and history;
 - Supporting proposals for the appropriate reuse of vacant historic buildings, recognising that putting buildings into viable uses consistent with their conservation can help sustain and enhance their significance;
 - Supporting proposals that increase the enhancement, promotion and interpretation of Copeland’s architectural and archaeological resources;
 - Strengthening the distinctive character of Copeland’s settlements, through the application of high-quality design and architecture that respects this character and enhances the setting of heritage assets.
- BE2 states that development should preserve or enhance designated heritage assets (or important archaeological sites) and their settings. The more important the asset, the greater weight that will be given to its conservation. Proposals that better reveal the significance of heritage assets will be supported in principle. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset will require clear and convincing justification.
- BE4 refers to non-designated heritage assets, saying that development should preserve or enhance such heritage assets and their settings. Proposals that better reveal the significance of heritage assets will be supported in principle. Proposals affecting non-designated heritage

assets or their settings should demonstrate that consideration has been given to their significance.

- DS4 outlines the Council's expectation that all new development will meet high-quality design standards that contribute positively to the health and well-being of residents.

The Conservation Area Design Guide is a supplementary planning document adopted in 2017 that is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications within conservation areas in the legacy Copeland area. It is therefore applicable to this application.

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Conservation and Design Officer