

THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

Phone: (0191) 386 2595
Email: lowejohn81@gmail.com
Web site: <http://www.DurhamCity.org>

c/o Blackett, Hart & Pratt, LLP
Aire House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont
Durham, DH1 1TH

25 April 2020

Michelle Hurton
Planning Department
Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UQ

Dear Ms Hurton,

DM/20/00911/FPA 9 And 9A Silver Street Durham DH1 3RB

Change of use of upper floors from retail including loft conversion into residential accommodation providing 4no. bedrooms with shared living accommodation

Trustees repeat the objection to the above application because of the poor security offered by the rear access for residents and the potential for the negative impact of increased security lighting and security measures on the historic environment.

The Trust remains supportive of the principle of using the upper floors of retail units rather than leaving them empty. However, the rear access would be very unwelcoming and possibly dangerous for the tenants. Any improvements may well involve lighting and boundary security changes that would have a negative impact on the heritage environment. The rear access is on view from the Castle.

These issues remain unresolved from the previous submissions.

Conclusion

Desirable as upper floor use is, the rear access in this proposal remains unsafe and unworkable in its proposed form. Any effective solution could have undesirable negative impact on the historic environment and the WHS and require a substantial reworking of both this and neighbouring property boundaries. Trustees ask that this application is therefore refused and suggests again that alternatives are investigated.

Yours sincerely,

John Lowe,
Chair, City of Durham Trust.