

THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

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c/o Blakett, Hart & Pratt, LLP
Aire House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont
Durham, DH1 1TH
23 July 2021

Dear Ms Jennings,

DM/20/03760/FPA 4 - 6 Silver Street Durham DH1 3RB, First To Third Floors

Partial change of use to create 57 bed Student Accommodation Facility to include the erection of a single storey extension to existing roof and associated access arrangements (amended title) (updated elevation and floor plan to south west)

The Trust maintains its objection as expressed in our letter of 10th May and originally detailed in a letter of 26th January 2021.

The current amendments do nothing to mitigate the unnecessary negative impact of the proposal in the immediate setting to the World Heritage Site (WHS). There is some improvement to the Moatside Lane window configuration, but the principal problems lie with the new upper floor and the bulk of the large two storey extension at the rear.

It perhaps should be noted in respect of the WHS that ICOMOS (advisers to UNESCO) have made the two following comments – firstly in relation to the Elvet Business School proposal and secondly in relation to the proposed WHS boundary expansion:

‘ICOMOS advises that in the absence of a buffer zone, a reappraisal of regulations for the immediate setting of the property should be undertaken urgently to ensure that developments are limited in this area and, where appraise, is of a size and form that is compatible with supporting attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value.’

‘Protection measures are also necessary for the sections to the north-west and north of the property, to control development and redevelopment and so ensure there is no impact on the views.’

To allow this application would directly fail to note the clear warnings from ICOMOS about protecting the WHS.

Yours sincerely

John Lowe,
Chair, City of Durham Trust