



Our ref: MTY0210/CG

Planning Department
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Unit 5
Triangle Business Park
Pentrebach
Merthyr Tydfil

9th November 2020

Dear Sir

Re: The repair and conversion of the vacant YMCA Building into office space including a new third floor new car and cycle parking facilities on the upper plateau, new vehicular and pedestrian access provided from Park Terrace, new footbridge and proposed ecological mitigation; Former YMCA Building Pontmorlais West Merthyr Tydfil

Pl.App.No: P/20/0219 and P/20/0220

Thank you for notifying us of this application. We have consulted the detailed information contained on your website and have concluded that the proposed works will require archaeological mitigation.

We commented on a previous application for similar works at this site on 2016 (our ref MTY0127/JB, 3rd October 2016). Our understanding of the archaeological resource remains unchanged. Our previous response set out a recommendation for a level III building record as per the guidance set out by Historic England in Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide To Good Recording Practice, 2016.

The YMCA is a significant building in a prominent location in the town. As noted by the applicants, it is architecturally important. In the past the YMCA made an important cultural contribution to the life of the town, and currently is a significant part of the townscape of Pontmorlais. Its restoration and reuse will have positive impact on the wider area and is to be welcomed.

We note that the architects have already made a good record of the standing buildings, however there is a need to make a detailed archaeological record prior to change. We envisage that the programme of building recording would take the form of a level II survey as set out in "Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice", Historic England, 2016. To ensure that work is carried out in a suitable manner, we therefore suggest that a condition worded in a manner similar to model condition 73 given in Welsh Government Circular 016/2014 is attached to any consent that is granted in response to the current application. This condition is worded:-

No works to which this consent relates shall commence until an appropriate programme of historic building recording and analysis has been secured and implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority

The Glamorgan-Gwent
Archaeological Trust
Limited

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The justification for the imposition of the condition would therefore be: -

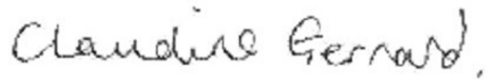
Reason: As the building is of architectural and cultural significance the specified records are required to mitigate impact.

We also recommend that a note should be attached to the planning consent explaining that:

The archaeological work must be undertaken to the appropriate Standard and Guidance set by Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), (www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa) and it is recommended that it is carried out either by a CIfA Registered Organisation (www.archaeologists.net/ro) or an accredited Member.

If you have any questions or require further advice on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Claudine Gerrard," with a small flourish at the end.

Claudine Gerrard BSc MPhil MCIfA
Archaeological Planning Officer