

Matthew McDade

From: Casework <casework@spab.org.uk>
Sent: 28 November 2014 11:55
To: enquiries@birdsallswashblackman.co.uk
Cc: david.eve@english-heritage.org.uk; lisa.mcintyre@churchofengland.org; Matthew McDade
Subject: 26806: Taverham St Edmund - New Building

Dear Ruth

Taverham St Edmund - New Building

Apologies once again that it wasn't possible for me to attend the site visit last month. The last few weeks have been busier than usual as I've been delivering quite a few Faith in Maintenance courses and then took some annual leave to recover!

Anyway, I hope that it is still useful to have some preliminary thoughts from the SPAB at this stage. I had hoped that I might be able to squeeze in a visit to Norfolk before the end of the year but sadly it hasn't proved to be possible. I do still intend to visit Taverham at some point soon, but I think we can give some general advice now on the basis of the information made available so far.

Essentially, our views chime with those expressed by the Church Buildings Council. If the desire for additional space is justifiable, then creating a new and separate building to the south of the church may well prove to be an acceptable solution. However, the issue of scale is certainly a worry and we would also encourage the PCC to think carefully about their spatial requirements and how activities might be combined and/or managed in order to reduce the footprint. A compact single story building would certainly be better if this can be achieved.

In terms of the design approach, then we would welcome a modern interpretation in accordance with the SPAB's principle that new additions should complement not parody their parent buildings. However, there is at the same time a need to maintain the hierarchical relationship between the church and its ancillary spaces, so ensuring that the new building is characterful and interesting but still subordinate to the Grade I listed church will require careful thought and great sensitivity.

I assume that the PCC will wish to consider the advice from all the consultees and will respond in due course. We'd certainly be happy to provide further comments as the scheme evolves.

Kind regards

Sara

--

Sara Crofts BArch(Hons) MSc IHBC FRSA
Deputy Director / Head of Casework

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
Founded in 1877. A charitable company limited by guarantee.
We advise. We educate. We campaign.

Place of registration: England and Wales.
Registered office: 37 Spital Square London E1 6DY

Telephone: 020 7377 1644

Email: info@spab.org.uk Website: www.spab.org.uk Follow us on Twitter: @SPAB1877 Facebook:
www.facebook.com/SPAB1877

Company No. 5743962 Charity No. 111 3753 Scottish Charity No. SC 039244 VAT No. 577 4276 02