



**CITY OF DURHAM  
PARISH COUNCIL**

Learning from the past.  
Building for the future.

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18 May 2020

Dear Mr Dalby,

**DM/20/01094/FPA | Single storey ground floor extension to existing visual arts building | Arts Block Durham Sixth Form Centre The Sands Durham DH1 1SG**

The Parish Planning Committee discussed this application at its meeting held (via Zoom) on 15 May 2020, and agreed to submit this objection, which relates to the proposed extension to the Arts Block. The Parish is supporting the proposals for the Caretaker's Cottage (DM/20/01100/FPA) and will be submitting a separate letter relating to that.

The Heritage Statement is compromised because, despite being dated April 2020, it refers to the Sands car park and to the coach park. These were closed in August 2019 to permit the construction of the new County headquarters, and construction was well underway in April. Consequently the comments about the setting of these proposals cannot be relied on. The Design and Access Statement (March 2020) also refers to the car park in its site description.

The existing Arts Block stands as a harmonious whole. The design, by Ian Scott of Niven Architects of Darlington, was a prize-winner. Unfortunately the proposed single-storey extension takes away that harmony. As such it does not meet the test in Saved Policy E6(c) requiring it to *reflect a quality of design appropriate to the historic City Centre*. It also fails the test in Policy 30 of the examined County Durham Plan which requires development proposals to achieve well designed buildings.

A different approach is needed in order to provide the extra space the College is seeking.

Yours sincerely,

**Adam Shanley**  
Clerk to the City of Durham Parish Council