

Horsham District Council,
Department of Planning and Economic Development and Property,
Parkside,
Chart Way,
Horsham,
West Sussex,
RH12 1RL.

For the attention of Martin and Nicola.

Dear Sirs,

Re: Prewetts Mill - Planning Application: DC/16/2923

On behalf of Horsham Society I wish to submit a qualified objection to Planning Application DC/16/2923. Whilst we are pleased to note the proposal for a change of use from 'business' to 'residential' and applaud the developer for proposing to retain the existing historic mill, we have concerns regarding design of the proposed conversion of the newest element of the building.

The site is situated on the Southern entry to the town and as such warrants a landmark building, which is clearly not reflected in the current proposals. We are disappointed that the most striking and architecturally exciting of the design competition proposals was not developed and that none of its' features have been incorporated into this application, despite our requests. Currently elevational improvements need to be made in order to alleviate the horizontal / linear appearance, as reflected in the East and West elevations.

Of concern is the height of the proposed building. Submitted drawings indicate the 'top of the existing building'. However it is unclear whether this is the height of the main ridge line or the top of the plant housing to the existing building. Drawings should be provided showing the proposed elevations, with a line indicating the outline of the existing roof, thus allowing an accurate comparison to be made.

The existing mill should not have window reveals decorated as indicated, as this did not form a part of the original mill. Furthermore any wording / lettering to the Worthing Road elevation of the mill, should be taken from historic photographs of the building in order to preserve some form of originality.

The sourcing of materials should be from those which are produced locally and should blend with the existing mill building and not contrast with it. The Design and Access Statement 3.2.4 claims that the inspiration for materials has been taken from a local material palette of brick and timber cladding, which is then promptly ignored by proposing a palette of grey colours - render RAL9016 Traffic White, concrete panel: RAL7035 Light Grey and decorated brick: RAL7025 Medium Grey. Whilst we find the proposal acceptable to incorporate a form of metal clad mansard roof, to provide some form of continuity with the existing mill, consideration should be given to the metalwork being zinc standing seam or similar.

It is for the above reasons that we wish to lodge this qualified objection to Planning Application DC/16/2923.

Yours faithfully,
David Griffiths. (secretary to the planning sub - committee).