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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2021 16:57
To: Eirini Dimerouki
Subject: Application 211240 Holy Trinity Church

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The Colchester Civic Society wishes to comment and object to the application for Listed Building Consent to paint a mural on the vestry wall of Holy Trinity Church.

We are aware that ownership of the church and the graveyard is wholly in the hands of Colchester Borough Council and that they are the guardians of this Grade I Listed building . Responsibility for the care, repair and maintenance reposes in their hands .

Grade I listing is defined as a building of " exceptional national architectural or historical importance" . The site is the high point of Trinity Street , the most historically significant street in Colchester.

We would also consider it to be at the very heart of the Town Centre Conservation Area . These areas are created specifically " to protect their special character and appearance " (Colchester.gov.uk)

With the clarity of these definitions we would question the application by a neighbouring commercial organisation , the Lion Walk Shopping Centre to paint on the vestry wall. This addition to the church of the vestry dates to 1840 and the wall itself forms a part of the curtilage of the site. As such ,the wall is deemed to be listed at the same level as the Saxon Tower. It is plainly not to be considered a part of the shopping centre.

We remain unconvinced of the need for this wall to be anything but redecorated appropriately .

Our particular concern is with the design of the mural itself . It touches only marginally on the history of the local area , ignores much including the military and is quite inaccurate to include " Humpty Dumpty " as any part of the town's history. It does little to inform the visitor except at the most trivial level . It remains a highly coloured piece in the style of children's illustration with a suitably significant reference to the applicant .

It is probably a suitable design for a quite different part of Lion Walk other than the wall of this Grade I treasure. It is hard to argue that is a suitable enhancement to the Conservation Area or a acceptable treatment for an exceptional building.

We would draw attention to the proposed paint materials. We would suggest that it would be wise not to use anything but micro porous paints as the masonry is likely to be solid. It would also be wise to check the stability of the existing paint and render layers. The issues of the peeling of paint through a lack of adhesion and failures of renders which have lost strength through the leeching of lime should be considered.

We would also advise a check that the internal masonry is dry so that should any damp occur due to a change in the outer paint surface ,this would become the responsibility of the promoters rather than the owners.

We note a possible proposal for an anti vandal surface to the mural but are mindful that should the application succeed , a condition should be required for repair and maintenance by the applicants. In particular ,a requirement might be considered necessary to insist on an artist repainting and repairing within a suggested 48 hour time period to remove any damage or offensive additions.

[REDACTED]
Colchester Civic Society
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