

52/2005/004

QUEENS COLLEGE

**ERECTION OF WICKER SCULPTURE AT THE FRONT OF QUEENS COLLEGE,
TRULL ROAD, TAUNTON**

21832/23129

FULL PERMISSION

PROPOSAL

The proposal is for the erection of a sculpture on the grassed area to the front of the college. The sculpture will be woven from wicker, have a steel skeleton, and a height of between 4 - 5 metres. It will depict a human figure, the artist has submitted sketches illustrating the likely appearance of the sculpture. The sculpture is required in connection with an arts festival that the college is to host.

CONSULTATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS

COUNTY HIGHWAY AUTHORITY no observations. ENGLISH HERITAGE do not wish to make any representations ... this case should be determined in accordance with government guidance, development plan policies and with the benefit of conservation advice locally.

CONSERVATION OFFICER no objection.

PARISH COUNCIL support the application in principle, subject to (i) the sculpture being no more than 4 m in height, due to its effect on the neighbourhood; (ii) the sculpture not having an adverse visual impact on the street scene; and (iii) the sculpture not affecting the listed building status of the college.

POLICY CONTEXT

Policy S1 (general) of the Taunton Deane Local Plan stipulates that proposal should not harm the appearance of any given street scene or be prejudicial to highway safety. Policy 9 of the Somerset and Exmoor National Park Joint Structure Plan Review, as well as Policy EN17 of the Taunton Deane Local Plan seek, inter alia, to safeguard the setting of listed buildings.

ASSESSMENT

Neither English Heritage or the Conservation Officer raise any concerns regarding the impact of the sculpture on the setting of the listed building. The site frontage is relatively well screened and it is not considered that the proposal would harm the appearance of the street scene, nor would it be prejudicial to highway safety. The Parish Council support the scheme on the basis that the sculpture does not exceed 4 m in height, however, according to the artist the height may be as much as 5 m. A height of 5 m is considered to be reasonable, as it would not harm the street scene. A condition is

recommended requiring full details of the height of the sculpture to be agreed prior to being erected on site For these reasons the proposal is considered to be acceptable.

RECOMMENDATION

Subject to the receipt of no letters of representation raising new issues by 1st April, 2005 the Development Control Manager in consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair be authorised to determine and permission be GRANTED subject to conditions of time limit, materials, full details of height and appearance. Note re works to be carried out in accordance with approved plans.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION:- The proposal will not harm the setting of the listed building, the appearance of the street scene, or be prejudicial to highway safety. Therefore the proposal accords with Somerset and Exmoor National Park Joint Structure Plan Review Policy 9 and Taunton Deane Local Plan Policies S1 and EN17 (Revised Deposit numbering).

In preparing this report the Planning Officer has considered fully the implications and requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998.

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NOTES: