

GIR240107/2002

7 January 2024

Planning Inspectorate

Issued by email only to East2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk on 7/1/24

Dear Planning Inspectorate

APP/U1430/W/23/3324343 and APP/U1430/Y/23/3324344 - George in Rye – External Colour Scheme – Planning Appeal

I was the clients project manager for the refurbishment of the George in Rye.

I understand that the planning application for the external colour scheme has been refused. Please see information below clarifying why the client proceeded with the current scheme.

1. Planning Applications RR/2020/573/P and RR/2020/574/L for Proposed reinstatement works at the George were submitted to Rother District Council. Tanya Szendeffy was the appointed Case Officer as well as the Conservation and Design Officer for Rother District Council.
2. During a site meeting with Ms Szendeffy on 2 September 2020 external works were discussed and the following note was made:

The Conservation Officer accepted that the building will be repainted rather than have brickwork exposed. The recommendation is to use different paint colours to express the different buildings on the site. This applies to walls and joinery. Please see the attached sketch. External decoration is planned to start soon and the Conservation Officer agreed to review and approve colour proposals promptly.

The sketch referred to is shown below and attached to this letter. The colours shown are not proposals but indicate the different buildings



3. Details of proposed colour scheme was issued on 14 October 2020. The email to Ms Szendeffy included the statement:

We have taken on board your suggestion that the individual buildings should be expressed in different colours and have retained a common colour for the windows, woodwork and downpipes. I would be grateful for your comments and hopefully approval to the colour choices.

Ms Szendeffy's reply of 15 October 2020 included the comment:

Thank you very much for your email. I am very glad you took the suggestion on board, and look forward to looking at the proposals in the next few days.

4. An email from Ms Szendeffy on 16 October 2020 included:

Re the proposed colour scheme: If we can't go back to the brick I just want to ensure that there is no grey that is in vogue at the moment on the George, as I do not consider the colour suitable in the historic environment. I've discussed this with several heritage professionals and I am not alone in this.

Re the scheme proposed, it appears that there are warmer shades of grey which may be suitable, but It's difficult to get the true colours on my screen. I do have a RAL chart but not a KEIM chart. Let's cross that bridge when we get to it, as that can always be tweaked.

The George is an important and prominent building in Rye and as you know all eyes are on it, so I just want to ensure we get this right. I know we will, but want to be able to move forward with confidence in our decision making.

My reply on 16 October 2020 included:

I will arrange for a Keim colour chart to be issued and confirm that the colours proposed are 'earth tone' rather than grey

Ms Szendeffy's reply on 16 October 2020 was:

That's great. Thank you.

5. Paint analysis by a specialist, Ms Catherine Hassall, was carried out prior to the existing external paint was removed.
6. Ms Szendeffy emailed on 17 December 2020 and stated:

I have finally had a chance to look at all the documents relating to the façade and ballroom, and support it all! - it really does appear that the additional research was all very much worth it. I'm sure the new colour scheme to the façade will keep Rye busy for a while and may even be the harbinger of a new colour culture!

7. On 17 June 2021 Ms Szendeffy emailed to say that external repainting had started but was not part of the original application and it required a separate application.
8. On 30 June 2021 Ms Szendeffy emailed to say:

I went to Rye this weekend and the window surrounds look grey.

I'm afraid it looks nothing like the colour I had on my screen when I looked at the scheme – which looks more green than grey.

As I explained from day one and oft repeated I would not support the colour grey as inappropriate.

Does the report show that the colour you have used was originally on the windows? From what I can see there is no precedent for this.

I have repeatedly refused the use of grey in this way in Rye and considering this colour inappropriate for window surrounds has been supported by conversations with Steven Parissien and Patrick Baty that I have had over time.

I look forward to an answer today or tomorrow if possible as as you know I am leaving and really hoped this would all have been done and dusted by now.

I had OKd the report on the basis that it had been carried out by an expert but having been on site and now looked at the report I cannot see how the two tie up.

On 30 June 2021 James Stevens confirmed the grey was undercoat. Ms Szendeffy replied on the same day:

Thank you for your email

I was expecting this colour – see below (Image of RAL 7013), which looks a greeny/browny grey (not grey), not the colour that the window has been painted which is decidedly grey – the colour I have been saying since day one is not acceptable.

I only said the RAL 7013 was acceptable as I had been advised that this was what the windows were once painted.

The window frame colour is RAL7013

9. The above demonstrates Ms Szendeffy's encouragement and support of the submitted colour scheme.
10. Ms Szendeffy left Rother District Council prior to the determination of application RR/2022/387/L and was therefore unable to provide her endorsement of the proposals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Stevenson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Neil Stevenson BSc (Hons) MRICS
SPM Ltd**

External decoration to express different buildings on the site
 (Colours shown below are NOT proposals but indicate the different buildings)



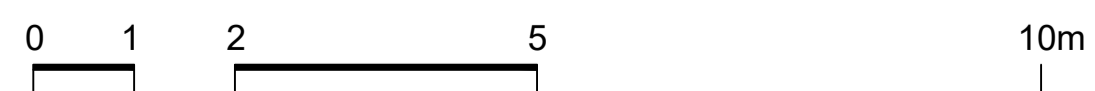
Proposed North Elevation (High Street)



Proposed East Elevation (Lion Street)

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Notes:



STATUS: Planning

SCALE: 1:75 @ A1, 1:150 @ A3

DATE: 24/08/2020

DRAWING NO:

TITLE:

PROJECT:

00620-PL-350

North & East Elevations ' Re-ordering Scheme ' As Proposed

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