

Cerys Jones

From: Philip Forster
Sent: 11 September 2017 14:21
To: planning_admin
Subject: FW: P/2017/0666: Salem Independent Chapel, Bank Street, Ponciau

Consultation response

From: Anna Irwin
Sent: 07 September 2017 08:52
To: Philip Forster
Subject: FW: P/2017/0666: Salem Independent Chapel, Bank Street, Ponciau

From: Lorna Goring
Sent: 07 September 2017 08:40
To: Anna Irwin
Subject: RE: P/2017/0666: Salem Independent Chapel, Bank Street, Ponciau

For Info - Think you commented on this one.

From: James Hughes (The Victorian Society) [<mailto:churches@victoriansociety.org.uk>]
Sent: 06 September 2017 18:21
To: planning
Cc: planning_admin; Lorna Goring
Subject: P/2017/0666: Salem Independent Chapel, Bank Street, Ponciau

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Salem Independent Chapel, Bank Street, Ponciau (Unlisted, probably by *M. J. Gummow*, 1896); outline application for demolition of chapel and erection of two detached dwellings
Our ref: 2017/09/003

Having been alerted to this proposal, I write now to register the Victorian Society's strong objection to the application and to recommend that it is refused consent.

The Salem Independent Chapel that is the subject of this application is that referred to on page 265 of the Clwyd volume of the Buildings of Wales, which identifies the architect as *M. J. Gummow*. Despite its inherent modesty, it is an attractively detailed chapel, built with characteristic pride and dignity. As others have pointed out, it constitutes a small but important fragment of the area's distinctive group of Ruabon brick chapels, which is recognised for its significance both locally and nationally.

In addition to its historic and architectural interest, this particular chapel appears to be well preserved, in good condition and, unlike many larger and more richly furnished chapels, well disposed to residential conversion. There is no evidence in the submitted documentation that the applicant has made any effort to explore the option of conversion, which we would urge them to do, as indeed should the Council. A new dwelling – to provide the two desired – could still be erected on the adjacent plot.

The loss of the chapel would unjustifiably deprive the town of one of its more notable historic buildings, eroding its streetscape and undermining its unique sense of place. It should instead be converted to new use.

The application should be refused consent.

Yours sincerely

James Hughes

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