

Application Number:	2022/0251/RG3
Site Address:	City Crematorium, Washingborough Road, Lincoln
Target Date:	30th June 2022
Agent Name:	Evans McDowall Architects
Applicant Name:	Mr Simon Colburn
Proposal:	Erection of a second chapel including associated infrastructure and landscaping

Background - Site Location and Description

This application is a resubmission of the previously approved second chapel at the City Crematorium. The application seeks to provide a further 3 years to commence works following the expiration of the existing permission in July 2022.

The proposal is to build a second chapel to the east side of the existing building with capacity for up to 50 people and with its own dedicated cremator.

The application is before Planning Committee as the applicant is the Council.

Site History

2019/0413/RG3 - Proposed renovation and extension of the existing chapel and book of remembrance building, including over cladding the existing building and replacement of existing windows and doors with associated additional 81 car parking and landscaping (phase one).

2019/0414/RG3 - Proposed Second Chapel including associated infrastructure and landscaping (phase two).

2019/0783/RG3 - Erection of a temporary chapel with associated facilities, vehicular and pedestrian access.

Case Officer Site Visit

Undertaken on 15 May 2022

Policies Referred to

- National Planning Policy Framework
- Policy LP1 A Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development
- Policy LP12 Infrastructure to Support Growth
- Policy LP15 Community Facilities
- Policy LP17 Landscape, Townscape and Views
- Policy LP22 Green Wedges
- Policy LP26 Design and Amenity

Issues

To assess the proposals with regard to:

1. Accordance with National and Local Planning Policy
2. Impact on Amenity of Neighbouring Uses

3. Impact on Visual Amenity
4. Highway Safety, Access, Parking and Surface Water Drainage
5. Impact on Trees, Landscaping and Ecology

Consultations

Consultations were carried out in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement, adopted January 2018.

Statutory Consultation Responses

Consultee	Comment
Highways & Planning	Comments Received
Environment Agency	No Comments

Public Consultation Responses

Name	Address
Richard Wright	Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board

Consideration

1. Accordance with National and Local Planning Policy

Paragraph 11 of the NPPF outlines that decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

For decision taking, this means approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay.

Paragraph 130 states that planning decisions should ensure that developments:

- a. will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;
- b. are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;
- c. are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);
- d. establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;
- e. optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local

facilities and transport networks; and

- f. create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.

Paragraph 134 states that great weight should be given to outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability, or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings.

The application is for the enhancement of existing facilities at the City Crematorium therefore the following policies within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan are entirely relevant.

Policy LP1: A Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

When considering development proposals, the Central Lincolnshire districts will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. Planning applications that accord with the policies within the Local Plan should be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Policy LP12: Infrastructure to Support Growth

The proposals would improve the overall level of service and would be supported by an increased provision of car parking to remediate the existing lack of car parking. The movement of traffic would not therefore be considered to have a harmful impact upon the existing infrastructure capacity.

Policy LP15: Community Facilities

All development proposals should recognise that community facilities are an integral component in achieving and maintaining sustainable, well integrated and inclusive development. The redevelopment or expansion of the existing facility to extend or diversify the level of service provided will be supported by the policy.

Policy LP17: Landscape, Townscape & Views

Policy LP17 states that proposals should have particular regard to maintaining and responding positively to any natural and man-made features within the landscape and townscape which positively contribute to the character of the area. All development proposals should take account of views in to, out of and within development areas: schemes should be designed (through considerate development, layout and design) to preserve or enhance key local views and vistas, and create new public views where possible.

As set out within the design and access statement the proposals have been developed to enhance the architectural quality of the existing building and complement the existing mature landscape. Where possible existing tree planting has been retained, with significant new landscaping proposals planned across the site to enhance the existing natural environment.

Careful consideration has been taken to respect views into the site and also views from

within the site boundary to enhance the setting of the existing building and the visitor experience.

Policy LP22: Green Wedges

Policy LP22 states that planning permission will not be granted for any form of development, including changes of use, unless:

- a. it can be demonstrated that the development is not contrary or detrimental to the above functions and aims; or
- b. it is essential for the proposed development to be located within the Green Wedge, and the benefits of which override the potential impact on the Green Wedge.

Development proposals within a Green Wedge will be expected to have regard to:

- c. the need to retain the open and undeveloped character of the Green Wedge, physical separation between settlements, historic environment character and green infrastructure value;
- d. the maintenance and enhancement of the network of footpaths, cycleways and bridleways, and their links to the countryside, to retain and enhance public access, where appropriate to the role and function of the Green Wedge;
- e. opportunities to improve the quality and function of green infrastructure within the Green Wedge with regard to the Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure network and Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping.

The proposed renovation and extension of the crematorium is designed to preserve the life of an existing facility that is already located within the green wedge. It will enhance the existing offering, through physical intervention, which will have a minimal physical impact on their area.

Policy LP26: Design and Amenity

The following design principles within Policy LP26 would be pertinent with the development.

- a. Make effective and efficient use of land;
- c. Respect the existing topography, landscape character and identity, and relate well to the site and surroundings, particularly in relation to siting, height, scale, massing, form and plot widths;
- d. Not result in the visual or physical coalescence with any neighbouring settlement;
- f. Incorporate and retain as far as possible existing natural and historic features such as hedgerows, trees, ponds, boundary walls, field patterns, buildings or structures;
- g. Incorporate appropriate landscape treatment to ensure that the development can be satisfactorily assimilated into the surrounding area;
- h. Provide well designed boundary treatments, and hard and soft landscaping that

reflect the function and character of the development and its surroundings;

- i. Protect any important local views into, out of or through the site;
- j. Duly reflect or improve on the original architectural style of the local surroundings, or embrace opportunities for innovative design and new technologies which sympathetically complement or contrast with the local architectural style;
- k. Use appropriate, high quality materials which reinforce or enhance local distinctiveness, with consideration given to texture, colour, pattern and durability;
- l. Ensure public places and buildings are accessible to all: this should not be limited to physical accessibility, but should also include accessibility for people with conditions such as dementia or sight impairment for example.

Policy LP26 further states that the amenities which all existing and future occupants of neighbouring land and buildings may reasonably expect to enjoy must not be unduly harmed by or as a result of development. Proposals should demonstrate, where applicable and to a degree proportionate to the proposal, how the following matters have been considered, in relation to both the construction and life of the development:

- m. Compatibility with neighbouring land uses;
- n. Overlooking;
- o. Overshadowing;
- p. Loss of light;

The proposals should therefore be considered on these points and as you will see below the development is in accordance with planning policy.

2) Impact on Amenity of Neighbouring Uses

The site is located within an area surrounded by minimal built development. To the east of the application site is the bowling alley, whilst to the west is the main crematorium building. To the south of the site a single dwelling sits a significant distance away from the proposed chapel building.

The new chapel would be single storey and surrounded by significant landscaping and as a consequence the impact on the amenity of neighbouring uses is negligible and would not result in any harm.

3) Impact on Visual Amenity

The new chapel has been designed in the same architectural style as the refurbishment of the main building providing a consistency of materials, scale and massing - limestone, bronze and vertical oak cladding reflecting the local palette, being employed in a contemporary manner to provide a building of interest in its own right. The site will have very limited views from Washingborough Road to the south and will complement existing development within the site and consequently will cause no harm to the visual amenity of the area.

4) Highway Safety, Access, Parking and Surface Water Drainage

The applicants have submitted a detailed Transport Assessment following discussions with the Highway Authority at the pre-application stage, formally scoping out the requirements of the assessment. A detailed surface water assessment has also been submitted which is satisfactory. The Highway Authority has no objections to the proposed extension, provided that suitability of the surface water drainage methods as proposed within the included drainage scheme are tested.

5) Impact on Trees, Landscaping and Ecology

The submitted ecological appraisal report also demonstrates the proposals are to have minimal impact on local wildlife. A number of landscape measures are also proposed as part of the development which will enhance the ecological value of the site. The extension of the car park will result in the removal of a select number of trees and a detailed landscaping report that accompanies the application proposes new tree planting as well as extensive new shrub and associated planting.

Conclusion

The proposal is of the same high quality as the proposal for the refurbishment of the existing building and is capable of being undertaken without causing harm to amenity, neighbours or other material planning considerations.

Recommendation

That the application is Granted Conditionally

Recommended conditions

1. Development to commence within three years
2. Development in strict accordance with the approved drawings
3. Drainage method suitability tested and implemented on site
4. Details of a membrane to be installed suitable for the intended use
5. New landscaping undertaken during next available planting season