



## **HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION**

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>TO:</b>                                                                                                              | Horsham District Council – Planning Dept                                                |
| <b>LOCATION:</b>                                                                                                        | Stone House, Church Street, West Chiltington                                            |
| <b>DESCRIPTION:</b>                                                                                                     |                                                                                         |
| <b>REFERENCE:</b>                                                                                                       | DC/26/0003                                                                              |
| <b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>                                                                                                  | Advice / No Objection / <b>Objection</b> / More Information<br>/ Modification / Refusal |
| <b>SUMMARY OF COMMENTS &amp; RECOMMENDATION: The alteration has harmed the special interest of the listed building.</b> |                                                                                         |

**MAIN COMMENTS:**

Dear Steve,

I visited yesterday and spoke with the applicant's heritage consultant. I explained that I have dealt with similar proposals in the past, and most recently DC/25/1671. I confirmed I would treat this unauthorised alteration in the same way in terms of the principle of alteration. The historic spatial arrangement forms an important part of a listed building and illustrates how spaces were used and negotiated by owners, their visitors and their staff. In this case, the maintaining of the compartmentalisation of internal spaces and separation of rooms of different character and intended use is important in preserving special interest. The desire to maintain an appreciation of separation of these rooms in the present is an important consideration in seeking to preserve the special interest of the listed building. The removal of the brick wall between the kitchen and the dining room has effectively created a single space that, despite the rebuilding of the wall in studwork to include a downstand and wall nibs, has removed a clear perception of separation that dilutes the ability to understand and appreciate the historic spatial division. This has led to moderate, less than substantial harm to the special interest of the listed building.

In other similar cases I have been willing to accept that creating an opening of a double door width and the height of other ground floor doorways is an acceptable compromise. This allows for greater circulation and flexibility but retains an appropriate perceptible level of separation between rooms. I suggested that the applicant provides revised drawings to show the reduction in size of the opening and the fitment of double doors in the opening; either hung or sliding into the stud work.

The original door into the kitchen has been filled in. I am satisfied this is an acceptable alteration and is reversible in the future. I would like confirmation of whether a historic door has been removed or whether this was a more recent replacement of no historic significance. I would also like this confirmed for the dining room door which has also been removed.

If the applicant is willing to submit revised drawings then I expect that the work is carried out within twelve months of the consent being granted. I can advise on the wording of a suitable condition.

Regards,  
Seán

**ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS: TBC**

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|--------------------|--------------|
| <b>NAME:</b>       | Seán Rix     |
| <b>DEPARTMENT:</b> | Conservation |
| <b>DATE:</b>       | 05.02.26     |