



HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council – Planning Dept
LOCATION:	Ashurst Church of England School, School Lane, Ashurst
DESCRIPTION:	Installation of rooftop solar photovoltaic panels
REFERENCE:	DC/26/1098 and DC/26/1099
RECOMMENDATION:	Advice / No Objection / Objection / More Information / Modification / Refusal
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATION:	
See below	
MAIN COMMENTS:	
Ashurst Primary School is located on the northern side of School Lane. The former School Master's house forms the principal listed building, with the single storey Victorian school attached to the east. The buildings are intrinsically linked and although the listing description notes that the main school is not of special interest, it is an attractive building that sits comfortably with the curtilage of the school master's house. Changes to the building would be viewed in the context of the listed building and should be sensitive to its position. The proposed panels would appear as a modern addition to the building, and due to their materials would stand out against the slate roof. Although black panels are more like the slate tiled roof of the school's extension in colour than tradition blue panels, they would still stand out as they do not have the weathered, individuality of tiles. The panels would detract from the genteel form of the building as a whole including in views of the School Masters House, particularly as the panels are on the most prominent and sensitive roofslope. The panels would therefore cause harm to the significance of the listed building. However as noted in HE6- 4 of the NPPF "Where a development proposal would harm the significance of a designated heritage asset the effect on the asset and its significance should be weighed against any public benefits resulting from the proposal. Important public benefits can include securing the long-term reuse of a vacant or underused listed building and enabling energy efficiency and low carbon heating measures to be employed." It would therefore be considered that if this is the only location for the panels, and the panels contribute meaningfully to the energy needs of the school, that this may be a public benefit. The submitted statement suggests that the panels would enable the school to reduce operating costs and further follow the Church of England's mission of	

net zero by 2030 at all their sites. Furthermore, the panels could be of educational benefit, showcasing how renewable energy works, the importance of it, and where electricity comes from.

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS:

NAME:	Nicola Mason / Llewellyn Jones
DEPARTMENT:	Strategic Planning
DATE:	04.09.2026