HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council – Planning Dept
LOCATION:	4 Nursery Cottages, Blackstone Street, Blackstone
DESCRIPTION:	Installation of solar panels with an air source heat pump. Internal improvements and construction of timber frame garden room
REFERENCE:	DC/24/0594 and DC/24/0595
RECOMMENDATION:	~~Advice / No Objection /~~ Objection / More Information / Modification ~~/ Refusal~~

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATION:

See below

MAIN COMMENTS:

4 Nursery Cottages forms the end property of a terrace of two storey cottages. The property is described within the Historic England National Heritage List for England as "C18 block. Two storeys. Four windows. Red brick. Hipped tiled roof. Horizontally- sliding sash windows." The dwelling is also within the Blackstone Conservation Area.

It is understood that the applicant is seeking to adapt their property to meet the needs of climate change however a balance has to be made between the significance of the heritage asset and the public benefits (that is positive climate action) provided by the proposal. Conservation of the heritage asset should always be given great weight and the more important the heritage asset, the greater that weight should be.

It would be considered that the provision of solar panels on the eastern roof slope would appear overly prominent in the street scene and would be visually incongruous against the existing clay roof tiles. This would result in harm both to the special interest of the listed building and the historic and architectural character of the conservation area.

In terms of the air source heat pump concern would be raised about the siting of the main unit. Its location on the side wall would not be considered appropriate. An objection would therefore be raised. It is suggested that further consideration is given to the siting of the main unit to a more sympathetic location which could possibly include screening.

There is also limited information on the changes that would be required to the radiators/ pipework or the type of insulation to be utilised in the roof space. It is important that the insulation still allows the building to breath.

The application also seeks permission for a garden room to the rear – in principle I would not raise an objection subject the use of timber cladding rather than the composite proposed.	
ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS:	
NAME:	Nicola Mason
DEPARTMENT:	Strategic Planning
DATE:	24.04.24