**Heritage Statement**

**Site Name:** Eden Valley Museum

**Address of Site:** Eden Valley Museum
 Church House
 72 High Street
 Edenbridge
 Kent
 TN8 5AR

**Grid Reference:** TQ 44395 46067

1. **Schedule of Works

 Type of Proposal:** Erection of a Museum sign on a pre-existing bracket

 **Works Proposed:** Erecting a sign on an existing bracket to replace a sign previously in place circa 2018

1. **Pre application advice:**

Pre-application advice was sought from Sevenoaks District Council Conservation Dept. A transcript of correspondence is included in the attached documents

1. **Heritage assets potentially affected by the Proposal**Listed Building (LB)
2. **What is known about the affected Heritage Site?**

 **4a. Summary of the Site/Building**

Church house building dates to 1378, the early ownership is obscure but it might have been part of the Manor of Stangrove. Originally a farm house, the earliest record of the farm dates to 1577 when Richard Seyliard left ‘a tenement to the south end of Edenbridge which he had of William Doggett of Lingfield’ to one Daniel Brooke. In 1753 William Holmden left ‘Doggetts’ to members of his family and the farm remained in the family for the next hundred years. 1844 tithe assessment names Sir George Farrant as owner of ‘Doggetts Farm’ with Richard Holmden as tenant. In 1888 Mr W. E. Doubell became tenant. 1909 the farm was sold to Mr Duncan of Southampton, with the lnd divided in to lots and put up for auction. Miss Geraldine Rickards purchased the farm house and converted it in to church assembly rooms, completed in 1913. 1914-18 The building was used as a hospital for Belgium refugees. 1921 Miss Rickards donated the building to the Parish Church for community use. During the later half of the 20th century the building was used successively as town band practice room until 1988 and Sunday School with the upstairs flat rented by caretakers of the site. 1992 the building became property of the Town Council.

In 1999 with a Heritage Lottery Fund the Eden Valley Museum Trust became tenant and opened the Eden Valley Museum in 2000. In the original planning and tenancy agreement the Museum was given the right to display a Museum sign on a hanging bracket outside, this was in place until 2018 when it was removed due to damage with the intent to replace it, unfortunately due to budgetary constraints this was not possible until 2021 and due to the delay it has proven necessary to apply for planning permission to re-erect the sign.

 **4b. Research undertaken to understand the significance of heritage assets affected:**

 As the Eden Valley Museum we have extensive files on the history of the building and local area, and as an accredited Museum our prevue is to preserve the social history of the Eden Valley. A PDF of the history of our recent 20th Birthday exhibit detailing further use of the building over 643 years is attached.

1. **Significance of Affected Heritage Assets and potential detriments to :**

The Museum and building is an integral part of Edenbridge Highstreet and focal point of local heritage. The building itself has been through significant renovations over that period, including the work undertaken prior to the opening of the Museum.

1. **Impact of work on the significance of the heritage assets and their setting:**

While the structure of the building derives from the 14th Century the facia of the building upon which the sign will hang is not original and tile faced. There have been numerous changes to the facia over the later half of the 20th Century including the removal of railings and the closure of the 72a door previously used by the CAB office during its operation on site. In addition to this the previous sign for the Museum was in place from opening in 2000 to 2018 when it was removed for safety reasons, and it can be seen from previous hanging apparatus and historic evidence that there is a long history of signs being hung at this location. As such not only will the re-hanging of a sign fail to negatively affect the significance of the heritage asset, but will return it to the expected status quo.

1. **Conservation and enhancement of the significance of the heritage asset(s)**

 The replacement sign construction has been chosen to enhance and improve on the aesthetic of the original sign whilst improving public safety.

* As seen from the existing images the new sign has been made to the exact dimensions as the original and features the same colour scheme and general design
* Original cast iron fixings have been taken from the original frame and reused in the new sign
* The original sign featured a hardwood frame but the board consisted of machine printed laminates with a chipboard core. The new sign features a hardwood surround with an alloy sheet ‘board’ hand painted by a local sign writer. As a result the new sign is lighter (to ensure compliance with modern safety practices) and harder wearing (the chipboard core of the original degenerated rapidly due to damp) but more in line with the aesthetic of the building and Highstreet conservation area by virtue of its hand painted nature (fitting with other local signs such as pub signs produced by the same artist).
* The original bracket is still in place and will be used for the re-hanging of the sign