

The Application Site

Barningham Village Hall is in the village of Barningham. Full postal Address is Barningham Village Hall, Barningham, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 7DW although the village is physically within County Durham. The building is Grade II listed, having been listed in October 1987 (List Entry Number 1160175 with reference NZ 0810 Barningham, Barningham Village (south side) 15/47 Barningham Village School). Listing NGR : NZ0843810252. National Grid Reference NZ 08438 10252.

The Nature of The Asset

The Listing itself reads as follows:

School, c1875. Roughly-coursed rubble with rock-faced quoins and tooled ashlar dressings. Graduated stone slate roof except for C20 hardrow tiles to rear. 1 storey, 3 bays. 3 light-chamfered mullioned windows holding 2-pane casements. Gablet above centre with inscription "ERECTED BY THE FAMILY OF THE LATE LADY AUGUSTA HENRIETTA MILBANKE...", moulded circular surround for clock, and ball finial. Coped gables on moulded kneelers; central circular metal ridge vent. Left return shows triplet of lancets, wrought-iron cross fleury finial and lower gabled porch to left: boarded door with ornamental scrolled hinges, under segmental-pointed arch. Right return shows similar triplet and gabled bellcote with segmental-pointed arch and wrought-iron finial; to right a C20 flat roofed extension with re-set similar doorway, from former porch, on left return. Rear elevation shows projecting central gabled wing with 3-light mullioned window.

Interior: main hall has 2 arch-braced collar-beam trusses with upper king posts.

In 1949 the defunct National School building on the south side of the village green was given to the village by the Milbank family as a thank-offering for the safe return of servicemen and women after the war. It was formally dedicated in 1951, when villagers presented Sir Frederick and Lady Milbank with a combined electric clock and desk lamp in return, and it became the centre of Barningham social life.

The Extent of the Asset

A site map has been provided with the application showing the position of the property within the village of Barningham. The site is to the south side of the road which runs through the centre of the village occupying a position slightly to the east of central to the village, it is set back from the road by the extent of the village green and is accessed by an unmade driveway which approaches the property from the east and is owned by neighbouring Newby House. The Village Hall itself sits Face-on to the main road in the village with the front elevation facing North towards Greta Bridge to the North. To the north of the property is the village green and the village fountain. To the west along the unmade driveway are Newby House, a Freehold property, and the smithy cottages, believed to be part of the Barningham Estate.

The site commands a slightly elevated view of its northern surroundings as the village green is sloped up from the road to the property. The slope continues through the property and to the south with no further property to the south.

The site consists of two buildings, the main Village Hall and an outbuilding to the west there is also a former playground area to the east of the hall. The property remains in the construction described in the listing above.

The Significance of the Asset

Without repeating the whole of the building listing again, Barningham Village Hall is the old schoolhouse of the village and has that distinct appearance of a school building of the late 19th century. The property is a commanding building standing alone as it does in the village.

Barningham is a village of mixed age and character and there are several buildings of a similar vintage (The Chapel can be dated to 1815 and "Moorlea" to 1894).

The Proposed Works

The proposed works are:

- i) Replace the old single glazed windows in the North(front) elevation with thin double-glazed units of hardwood construction, otherwise no material changes in appearance.

The Impact on the Asset

The current windows have only Perspex secondary glazing screwed to the inside of the softwood frames and are ineffective in reducing the heating of the hall, its largest cost. As the windows face to the North, fitting double glazed units would have a larger impact than the windows on any other aspect of the property. The proposed work will enhance the overall look of the property as the old windows are rotting and painted shut, hence lacking ventilation, the visual appearance of the property will not change. This application does not regard the removal of old and replacement with new windows as "demolition" and hence no demolition is envisaged.

Sources of Information

The County Durham HER

The National Heritage List

Local Searches (environmental and drainage)

Local Residents

"Round the World -Jon Smith – An A-Z miscellany of Barningham and its neighbours"