

Design & Access / Planning Statement

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses
Bevills Place
March
PE15 9JZ



Refurbishment of Existing Place of Worship, comprising new front doors, outlets for ventilation, new cladding in situ at rear and provision of compliant, accessible WC

Location

<https://www.google.com/maps/@52.5479123,0.0877096,3a,20.4y,87.53h,93.48t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sIRTHcrpcZtWu68Dwx20dIgl2e0!7i16384!8i8192?authuser=0&entry=ttu> (accessed 18/12/23)

This purpose-built Place of Worship was erected in March town centre. It is on the edge of March Conservation Area, which includes some of the High Street and the forecourt area of Bevills Place, in front of the Kingdom Hall. ([March Conservation Area.pdf \(fenland.gov.uk\)](#) (accessed 18/12/23))

Previous Planning History

- Non-illuminated individual wooden lettering Kingdom Hall Savills Place March – granted 5/12/80 (F/0033/80/A)
- Erection of an extension – granted 11/5/89 (ref F/0247/89/F)
- Formation of access ramp to side and rear elevations and laying of brick pavers to extend existing gravelled car parking area – granted 3 November 2017 (ref F/YR17/0858/F)

Policy

The following policies from the **Fenland Local Plan May 2014** have been considered:

- LP1 A presumption in favour of sustainable development
- LP2 Facilitating health and well-being of Fenland residents
- LP9 March
- LP18 The historic environment

Reference is also made to the **Draft Fenland Local Plan 2021-2040, August 2022**

- LP7 Design
- LP16 Town Centre
- LP23 Historic Environment

Proposal

New front doors – replace wooden doors with glazed front doors

Outlets for ventilation – new intake and extract louvres on the rear elevation of the building, and small ventilation outlet for WCs on side elevation

New cladding – replacement of current cladding with new, in the same area at the rear of the building

Accessible WC – for the comfort of disabled worshippers and/or visitors

Conclusion

This proposal is in accord with Fenland District Council's policies, as listed above. Works will refresh and enhance the external appearance. Updated ventilation will provide a comfortable environment. Provision of a new accessible WC for disabled members of the Congregation, and any visitors from the community, will afford dignified facilities for their comfort.