



# Spalding & District Civic Society

Registered Charity No 259956

[www.spaldingcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.spaldingcivicsociety.org.uk)

**H16-0576-25**

## **Proposed History Boards of Spalding on DI Bond Boards**

### **Spalding Railway Station**

Whilst we are not opposed to the principle of the application and especially of the concept of using boards for public realm art which will protect the fabric of the station, we do feel that further work is required to arrive at a theme that is more appropriate to reveal the contribution of the railways and the station to the history of the town.

The railways and the station have played an important history of the town.

The railway enabled freshly cut flowers and fresh produce grown locally to be sent to London and elsewhere enabling our local horticultural and food industry to become so important to the nation's economy.

The railway brought thousands to Spalding every year to enjoy the Tulip Parade.

The railway connected us to the rest of the country and enabled the people of the town to travel far and wide over a century and a half.

These are all themes in the station's 177 years history that could be explored in the form of public realm art of the type proposed.

Whilst the station would have been used by the young men of this town that usage represents a small proportion of all the reasons for travelling over the decades.

Whilst war did have a role in the history of the town and its people – indeed a significant part owing to the bombing of the town centre in World War 2, there are other, more appropriate themes that could be explored in the form of public realm art at the station.

Policy 29 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan highlights that opportunities to identify a heritage asset's contribution to the economy, tourism, education and the local community will be utilised.

Whilst paragraph 210 of the National Planning Policy Framework requires that when determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets.

The heritage impact assessment does not set out how this proposal highlight's the significance of the station to the town's history and apart from one example, the sample images do not appear to have any relevance to Spalding at all. One of the example images shows a station with overhead lines and a train that could never have run through the town.

If the application is to be approved, we feel that the following conditions be applied that are taken from SHDC Graffiti and Street Art Management Policy approved in 2022.

- At a minimum, residents in the immediate vicinity or within sight of the proposed project should be contacted, and as far as possible their opinions should be taken on board. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to carry out the consultation, although assistance may be given by the contact officer in conjunction with Neighbourhoods team and the relevant Parish, Town Council or Spalding Town Forum. Evidence of the consultation and its result must be provided at the request of the contact officer.
- Local people should be engaged as fully as possible in the street art project. This could, for instance, involve them working in a group with a specific artist in order to design and complete the project. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to involve local people in the project, although the contact officer may offer advice and assistance when appropriate.
- The work of art should be designed by a recognised artist(s) to be attractive and a positive addition to the locality. Its design should minimise the risk of attracting offensive material and must not glorify or promote tagging. The work may be signed by the artists.
- Before the work can be carried out, the design should be approved by the contact officer in conjunction with other stakeholders. These stakeholders will be the Assistant Director – General Fund Assets representing the owner of the land, the relevant Parish, Town Council or Spalding Town Forum or those delegated to act on their behalf. This is not intended to be a laborious process and nor should it stifle creativity. The purpose is to ensure that the policy works well.

As the station is used widely, we feel that the level of engagement, consultation and engagement with the public must be at high level. We have previously offered to work with the applicant and our partners to arrive at a project that will involve the public in a comprehensive way.

That offer stands.