

DECISION DELEGATED TO HEAD OF PLANNING

Application No: H16-1195-21 **Applicant:** Aldrich Group
Proposal: Demolition of Former Station House
Location: Station House Kings Road Spalding
Terminal Date: 17th December 2021

Planning Policies

South East Lincolnshire Local Plan - Adopted: March 2019

National Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework 2021

Schedule 2, Part 11, Class B of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended)

Representations:

	Object	Support	No Obj.	Comments
SPALDING AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY	1	0	0	0
RESIDENTS	1	0	0	0

CASE OFFICER ASSESSMENT

Proposal

This is an application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed method of demolition and any proposed restoration of the site at Station House, Kings Road, Spalding, under Schedule 2, Part 11, Class B of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended) (GPDO).

Site Description

The application site sits on the junction of Sandtone Gardens and Kings Road on the edge of the town centre of Spalding. It accommodates a two-storey building, which is currently vacant and sits within a large curtilage that comprises of hardstanding and overgrown grass. There is a new self-storage facility to the west and north, residential properties to the north-east and east, with Winfrey Avenue car park and bus station and a small number of residential properties to the south. The

railway line is situated further to the west.

History

H16-1195-21 - PAA - Demolition of Former Station House (withdrawn November 2021)

H16-0690-21 - PAA - Demolition of Station House and erection of 6 self contained flats (refused November 2021)

H16-0011-09 - Outline - Residential development including conversion of gatehouse into dwelling (application withdrawn June 2009)

Consultation Responses

Spalding and District Civil Society - We are very surprised to see this application given the very clear reasons stated for refusing the application under reference H16-0690-21 earlier this year. We are not aware of any change of circumstances since that refusal. Whilst the building is currently unlisted it is a significant heritage asset that conveys the importance of the Railways to the town's history, and we understand has many original features. The proposals contravenes the heritage aspects within policies 2, 3 and 29 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan. In particular policy 29 requires that proposals that affect views from the conservation area should preserve (and enhance or reinforce, as appropriate) features that contribute positively to the area's character appearance and setting. Furthermore we cannot see that a fresh heritage impact assessment as required by policy 29f has been undertaken to justify this application. We urge that the application be refused outright and that the developer be encouraged to come up with a proposal that will enable this building to be brought back into use. Such a proposal would be in accordance with section 4 of policy 29f of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan.

Planning Considerations

This is an application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed method of demolition and any proposed restoration of the site at Station House, Kings Road, Spalding, under Schedule 2, Part 11, Class B of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended) (GPDO). As such, the provisions of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, 2019, are not relevant to the determination of this application.

Under the provisions of Part 11, as the building in question is not in a Conservation Area and is not a Listed Building, the proposal is 'development' but is not 'relevant demolition'. As such, it does not require planning permission, but it can be permitted development.

Because permitted development rights have not been removed and the building has not been rendered unsafe by the actions of a person with an interest in the land, the proposed demolition is permitted development, subject to the prior approval by the Local Planning Authority with respect to the method of demolition and other conditions outlined in Class B.2 of Part 11 of the GPDO.

The applicant has submitted details regarding the method of demolition and the proposed restoration of the site. These are deemed to be acceptable.

The requirement for a site notice to be displayed has been satisfactorily complied with.

Additional Considerations

Public Sector Equality Duty

In making this decision the Authority must have regard to the public sector equality duty (PSED) under s.149 of the Equalities Act. This means that the Council must have due regard to the need (in discharging its functions) to:

A. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.

B. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This may include removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic; taking steps to meet the special needs of those with a protected characteristic; encouraging participation in public life (or other areas where they are underrepresented) of people with a protected characteristic(s).

C. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The PSED must be considered as a relevant factor in making this decision but does not impose a duty to achieve the outcomes in s.149. It is only one factor that needs to be considered, and may be balanced against other relevant factors.

It is not considered that the recommendation in this case will have a disproportionately adverse impact on a protected characteristic.

Human Rights

In making a decision, the Authority should be aware of and take into account any implications that may arise from the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act, it is unlawful for a public authority such as South Holland District Council to act in a manner that is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. The Authority is referred specifically to Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property).

It is not considered that the recommendation in this case interferes with local residents' right to respect for their private and family life, home and correspondence, except insofar as it is necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others (in this case, the rights of the applicant). The Council is also permitted to control the use of property in accordance with the general public interest and the recommendation is considered to be a proportionate response to the submitted application based on the considerations set out in this report.

Conclusion

The proposal is permitted development under Schedule 2, Part 11, Class B of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended).