

TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET

To install a water refill station to the exterior of the building. Remove and relocate existing noticeboard.

1. Officer Recommendation:

SUPPORTS and has a RESPONSE:

- Subject to no objection from the District Council’s Heritage Officer.

2. Key Issues:

A general dispensation is in place to allow Members to debate and vote on planning applications where the Town Council is the applicant and/or landowner.

TTC has approved the installation of the water refill station – CLR 31/10/23, Item 7.

- Impact on the Character and Appearance of the Conservation Area
Impact on the Special Architectural and Historic Interest of the Listed Building

The Town Hall is a Grade II listed building prominently located within the Conservation Area. The proposed water refill station will be of relatively small scale and will not obscure any important features of the listed building. Whilst it is accepted that there will be some impact on the conservation area, it is considered that overall, this would be minimal and that the impact would be outweighed by the environmental and public benefits.

3. Planning History:

SODC Ref	Description	TTC Decision	SODC Decision
P14/S0421/LB	Proposed refurbishment and external improvements.	Approved	Granted
P14/S1404/LB	Repair, strengthening and re-building of arched head to windows 39 and 44	Approved	Granted
P14/S0601/LB	Replace existing front notice board with new notice board with three lockable viewing panels.	Withdrawn	Withdrawn prior to determination
P17/S1978/LB	Production and installation of commemorative plaques denoting the use of 12 listed buildings in Thame as filming locations for the Midsomer Murders ITV series.	Approved	Withdrawn prior to determination
P18/S2735/LB	Production and installation of commemorative plaques denoting the use of 6 listed buildings in Thame as filming locations for the Midsomer Murders series.	Fully Supports - asset to town, vibrancy & vitality, footfall, bus economy	Refused
P22/S3531/LB	To repurpose listed phone box directly outside Town Hall to house a defibrillator.	Supports + response	Granted

4. Risk Appraisal

Dependent on the Town Council's recommendation to SODC is it likely that there would be a contrary decision by SODC? If so then a councillor should be nominated at the meeting to represent the views of the Town Council at the planning committee.

5. Policies Relevant to the Application

The following policies are of particular relevance when considering this application.

Thame Neighbourhood Plan

- ESDQ15 Developers must demonstrate in a Design and Access Statement how their proposed development reinforces Thame's character
- ESDQ16 Development must relate well to its site and its surroundings
- ESDQ17 Development must make a positive contribution towards the distinctive character of the town as a whole
- ESDQ18 New development must contribute to local character by creating a sense of place appropriate to its location
- ESDQ19 The Design and Access Statement and accompanying drawings must provide sufficient detail for proposals to be properly understood
- ESDQ20 Building style must be appropriate to the historic context

SODC Local Plan 2035 Policies

- DES1 Delivering high quality development
- DES2 Enhancing local character
- DES3 Design and access statements
- DES7 Efficient use of resources
- DES8 Promoting sustainable design
- ENV6 Historic environment
- ENV7 Listed buildings
- ENV8 Conservation areas