

22nd November 2017

Mr Tom Foxall
Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas
Historic England
Eastgate Court
195-205 High Street
Guildford
GU1 3EH

Wye
with Hinxhill
Parish Council



2B Briar Close, Bramble Lane
Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5HB
T: 01233 812459
clerk@wyeparish.info
www.wyeparish.info

Dear Mr Foxall

17/00567/AS and 17/00568/AS Wye College, High Street, Wye TN25 5AH

I am writing to inform you of an emerging alternative option for the sympathetic and beneficial reuse of the Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II listed buildings of the former Wye College.

For an overview of this option, please see the attached initial feasibility report dated 17th November from Robert Lucas, Chief Executive of the Field Studies Council (FSC), and the reply from Richard Alderton, Director of Place and Space, at Ashford Borough Council.

Regarding the planning application above, the applicant's case for change of use is based on the premise that there is no educational use or interest in these listed buildings, therefore residential use is the only viable option. However, this premise is clearly false.

In summary, the Parish Council objects strongly on heritage and other grounds. These are principally the harm and the loss of integrity arising from the proposed extensive alterations and subdivision of the buildings, the loss of public use and other benefits. The applicant aims to alter coherent, serviceable and very special institutional buildings into an exclusive, gated residential development. If permitted, the proposed structural and tenure changes will cause harm to the buildings and their setting. This change of use will also end centuries of public benefit, deny future public use of Wye College, and harm the Wye Conservation Area. Yet harm is avoidable - if Wye College remains in educational use under sympathetic new management.

Please be aware that in April 2017 the Parish Council nominated the Latin School and the adjacent Green as Assets of Community Value. The applicant did not appeal and Ashford Borough Council registered these ACVs in June. ABC's report on the Latin School (attached) includes quotes from the Parish Council's nomination form. This shows the strength of local support for Wye's heritage, and the need for additional space in Wye for community use.

For your information, I will also send you by separate email the Wye Village Design Group's objection, as this substantial critique is not visible on Ashford Borough Council's website.

Yours sincerely

Mrs V A McLean

Clerk to the Parish Council

Encs Initial feasibility report from the Field Studies Council, November 2017
Reply from Richard Alderton, Director of Place and Space, Ashford Borough Council
Latin School Asset of Community Value Registration June 2017
WYE3 Masterplan 1st draft Village Design Group position paper