

Application Number: 07/00038/FL

Address:

Old School House
St Stephens Street
Tonbridge
Kent

Proposal:

Demolition of existing property, proposed 11 bed residential scheme - with five parking and one disabled space, secure bicycle enclosure and refuse point.

Case Officer: Rebecca Jarman

Civic Society representation:

Object to demolition on following grounds:

- Historic building worthy of inclusion in KHBI
- Contributes to neighbourhood and local identity
- Provides employment facility
- Attractive contribution to the street scene and urban landscape
- Provides a tangible link with town's historic past
- Gives a sense of place and character
- Would be severe loss to town and neighbourhood
- Deacon family's dedication stone should be permanently retained

Object to development on the following grounds:

- Over-development of site
- Out of scale to adjacent Almshouses
- Creates an unfortunate squeezed appearance to the Almshouses
- Detracts from the existing merit of the street scene
- Little architectural merit
- Replaces a unique local historic building with an 'anywhere' building
- Confused elevation - especially northeast - caused by ill conceived and token regard for Almshouses
- Causes congestion at busy road juncture
- Insufficient off-street parking
- Loss of employment offices

In conclusion, it is by this kind of development we gradually lose our town's identity and sense of place - historic buildings have a virtue beyond their sometimes-modest architectural merit.

22nd February 2007