


Report to be read in conjunction with the Decision Notice.

Signed:	Officer:	SK	Date:	6.6.25	Manager:	LH	Date:	6.6.25
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Application Ref:	2025/0373			 Ribble Valley Borough Council www.ribblevalley.gov.uk
Date Inspected:	16.5.25	Site Notice:	16.5.25	
Officer:	Stephen Kilmartin			
DELEGATED ITEM FILE REPORT:				APPROVAL

Development Description:	Advertisement consent for 1 fascia sign and 1 double sided non-illuminated projecting sign to the front elevation.
Site Address/Location:	Ethos House 4 York Street Clitheroe BB7 2DH

CONSULTATIONS:	Parish/Town Council
Clitheroe Town Council have raised no objection stating the following: <i>No objections provided the illuminated sign is in accordance with others permitted in a conservation area, is sympathetic to the townscape and is backlit.</i>	

CONSULTATIONS:	Highways/Water Authority/Other Bodies
LCC Highways:	
The Local Highways Authority have raised no objection to the proposal subject to the imposition of conditions. However given the application no longer seeks consent for illuminated signage the conditions are no longer considered relevant to the application.	
CONSULTATIONS:	Additional Representations.
No representations received in respect of the application.	

RELEVANT POLICIES AND SITE PLANNING HISTORY:
<p>Ribble Valley Core Strategy:</p> <p>Key Statement DS1: Development Strategy Key Statement DS2: Sustainable Development Key Statement EN5: Heritage Assets</p> <p>Policy DMG1: General Considerations Policy DMG2: Strategic Considerations Policy DME4: Protecting Heritage Assets</p> <p>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Clitheroe Conservation Area Appraisal</p>
Relevant Planning History:
2025/0197:

Change of use of restaurant (use class E) to offices on the ground floor, and three one-bedroom apartments (use class C3) on the first floor, including external alterations to the building. (Live application)

2024/1006:

Prior approval for proposed change of use of first floor from use class E (restaurant), to three one-bedroom dwellings (use class C3) under Part 3, Class MA of the GDPO. (Refused)

2020/0360:

Proposed conversion of first floor space above existing unit (use class A3), to create three self-contained, one-bedroom apartments (use class C3a) with mezzanine levels in roof space. (Withdrawn)

ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

Site Description and Surrounding Area:

The application relates to Ethos House, 4 York Street, Clitheroe. The building is a two-storey commercial premises located within the Designated Clitheroe Conservation Area, with the building also being within the defined Main Centre Boundary of the settlement.

Proposed Development for which consent is sought:

The application seeks advertisement consent for the installation of '3D lettered signage' on locaters, to be installed on the primary and secondary (side) elevation of the property, with the signage being located on an intermediate floor margin that also acts as the fascia margin for the premises.

The proposed 'plaque signage' will be mounted on either side of columns adjacent the primary entry point to the premises, with the plaques replacing previous 'menu signage' associated with the previous use.

The proposed projecting signage will replace an existing projecting sign located on the front elevation of the property, with the signage being of a similar scale to that of the previous configuration. Following officer concerns in respect of the sign being internally illuminated, the agent has agreed that the lighting element of the signage will not be connected and as such will no longer be internally illuminated.

Impact upon Character/appearance of Conservations Area:

The application relates to an existing commercial premises located within the designated Clitheroe Conservation Area. As such, in assessing the proposal, regard must be given to the statutory duties imposed on the authority in respect of the preservation and enhancement of such assets. In this respect, at a local level, Key Statement EN5 and Policy DME4 are primarily, but not solely, engaged for the purposes of assessing likely impacts upon designated heritage assets resultant from the proposed development.

Key Statement EN5:

In this respect Key Statement EN5 states that:

There will be a presumption in favour of the conservation and enhancement of the significance of heritage assets and their settings. The Historic Environment and its Heritage Assets and their settings will be conserved and enhanced in a manner appropriate to their significance for their heritage value; their important contribution to local character, distinctiveness and sense of place; and to wider social, cultural and environmental benefits.

This will be achieved through:

- *Recognising that the best way of ensuring the long term protection of heritage assets is to ensure a viable use that optimises opportunities for sustaining and enhancing its significance.*
- *Keeping Conservation Area Appraisals under review to ensure that any development proposals respect and safeguard the character, appearance and significance of the area.*
- *Considering any development proposals which may impact on a heritage asset or their setting through seeking benefits that conserve and enhance their significance and avoids any substantial harm to the heritage asset.*
- *Requiring all development proposals to make a positive contribution to local distinctiveness/sense of place.*
- *The consideration of Article 4 Directions to restrict permitted development rights where the exercise of such rights would harm the historic environment.*

Policy DME4:

With Policy DME4 stating, in respect of development within conservation areas or those affecting the listed buildings or their setting, that development will be assessed on the following basis:

1: CONSERVATION AREAS

Proposals within, or affecting views into and out of, or affecting the setting of a conservation area will be required to conserve and where appropriate enhance its character and appearance and those elements which contribute towards its significance. This should include considerations as to whether it conserves and enhances the special architectural and historic character of the area as set out in the relevant conservation area appraisal. development which makes a positive contribution and conserves and enhances the character, appearance and significance of the area in terms of its location, scale, size, design and materials and existing buildings, structures, trees and open spaces will be supported.

In the conservation areas there will be a presumption in favour of the conservation and enhancement of elements that make a positive contribution to the character or appearance of the conservation area.

2: LISTED BUILDINGS AND OTHER BUILDINGS OF SIGNIFICANT HERITAGE INTEREST

Alterations or extensions to listed buildings or buildings of local heritage interest, or development proposals on sites within their setting which cause harm to the significance of the heritage asset will not be supported. Any proposals involving the demolition or loss of important historic fabric from listed buildings will be refused unless it can be demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist.

Policy DMG1:

Policy DMG1 is also engaged in concert with Key Statement EN5 and Policy DME4 insofar that the policy sets out general Development Management considerations, with the policy having a number of inherent criterion that are relevant to the assessment of the current proposal, which state:

In determining planning applications, all development must:

DESIGN

1. *Be of a high standard of building design which considers the 8 building in context principles (from the CABE/English Heritage building on context toolkit).*
2. *Be sympathetic to existing and proposed land uses in terms of its size, intensity and nature as well as scale, massing, style, features and building materials.*

3. *Consider the density, layout and relationship between buildings, which is of major importance. particular emphasis will be placed on visual appearance and the relationship to surroundings, including impact on landscape character, as well as the effects of development on existing amenities.*

AMENITY

1. *Not adversely affect the amenities of the surrounding area.*

ENVIRONMENT

3. *All development must protect and enhance heritage assets and their settings.*

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990:

Given the proposal relates to a Grade II Designated Heritage Asset, special regard must also be given to the statutory duties imposed on the authority, pursuant to national legislation, particularly in respect of the preservation and enhancement of such assets.

The principle statutory duty under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended by s.58B (1) of Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023) is to preserve or enhance the special character of heritage assets, including their setting. As such, in determining applications that affect designated heritage assets, the authority must consider the duties contained within the principle Act which states the following;

Listed Buildings – Section 66(1) (as amended by s.58B of Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023):

In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the building or its setting. Under s.58B (2) this includes preserving or enhancing any feature, quality or characteristic of the asset or setting that contributes to the significance of the asset.

Listed buildings - Section 16 (2) (as amended by s.58B of Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023):

In considering whether to grant listed building consent for any works to a listed building the local planning authority shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the building. Under s.58B (2) this includes preserving or enhancing any feature, quality or characteristic of the asset or setting that contributes to the significance of the asset.

National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024):

The National planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out further duties in respect of determining proposals that affect heritage assets stating that *'In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation'.*

The Framework sets out further duties in respect of considering potential impacts upon designated heritage assets with Paragraphs 212 – 220 reading as follows:

Considering Potential Impacts:

212:

When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

213:

Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;*
- b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.*

214:

Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and*
- b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and*
- c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*
- d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.*

215:

Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

216:

The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

217:

Local planning authorities should not permit the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.

218:

Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

219:

Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their

significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.

220:

Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 207 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 208, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.

Assessment of Impacts:

The '3D lettered signage' on locaters will be installed on the primary and secondary (side) elevation of the property, with the signage being located on an intermediate floor margin that also acts as the fascia margin for the premises. The proposed lettering will be of a scale and appearance that is commensurate and similar to other such arrangements found within the immediate vicinity. As such it is not considered that the proposed stand-off lettering will be read as being incongruous or anomalous, nor is it considered that the proposed signage will result in any adverse impacts upon the character or visual amenities of the immediate streetscene.

The proposed 'plaque signage' will be mounted on either side of columns adjacent the primary entry point to the premises, with the plaques replacing previous 'menu signage' associated with the previous use. In this respect the proposed plaque signage is unlikely to result in any additional adverse visual impacts over and above that of the previous configuration.

The proposed projecting signage will replace an existing projecting sign located on the front elevation of the property, with the signage being of a similar scale to that of the previous configuration. Following officer concerns in respect of the sign being internally illuminated, the agent has agreed that the lighting element of the signage will not be connected and as such will no longer be internally illuminated. As such, taking into account the projecting signage is of a similar scale to that of the previous configuration, also being of a scale that is commensurate with other such signage in the areas, it is not considered that the signage will result in any adverse measurable visual impacts upon the character or visual amenities of the Designated Clithero Conservation Area.

As such, taking account of the above matters, it is not considered that the proposed development raises any significant direct conflict(s) with Key Statement EN5 or Policies DMG1 and DME4 of the Ribble Valley Core Strategy, nor any significant measurable conflicts with the aims, objectives and requirements of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Impact Upon Residential Amenity:

The application relates to a commercial premises within the designated Main Centre Boundary of the settlement of Clitheroe. In this respect, taking account of the absence of any immediate neighbouring residential receptors, and taking into account of the nature of the proposed signage insofar that it will not be internally illuminated, it is not considered that there will be any measurable detrimental impacts upon residential amenities resultant from the proposal.

It is noted that a current live undetermined application is before the authority which seeks consent for the 'change of use of restaurant (use class E) to offices on the ground floor, and three one-bedroom apartments (use class C3) on the first floor, including external alterations to the building' (3/2025/0197).

However, taking account of the nature and siting of the proposed signage, should consent be granted for the aforementioned proposal, it is not considered that the residential amenities of the future occupiers of the dwellings will be subject to any measurable detrimental impacts from the proposed signage.

As such, and taking account of the above matters, the proposal does not raise any significant direct conflicts with Policy DMG1 which seeks to ensure of adequate standards of residential amenity and protect against development(s) that would result in measurable detrimental impact(s) upon nearby existing residential amenities.

Observations/Consideration of Matters Raised/Conclusion:

As such, for the above reasons and having regard to all material considerations and matters raised that the application is recommended for approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

That advertisement consent be granted subject to the imposition of conditions.