

From: Emily Wade <Emily.Wade@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 June 2025 15:33:06 UTC+01:00
To: "Andrew Horrell" <Andrew.Horrell@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Co-op, Whitemans Green DM/25/1093

Hi Andrew

Comments on the above planning application.

The application site is an unlisted building, the former Ship Inn, and now a shop, located in a prominent position within the Whitemans Green Conservation Area. The building appears, from historical map regression, to date from the 19th century or earlier, and makes a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, although it has suffered from some unsympathetic works including installation of vinyl to the rear of the ground floor windows creating a dead frontage. Some aspects of the existing signage are also unsympathetic, including the relatively prominent trough light above the main fascia sign.

The current proposal is for replacement signage to the front and side elevations of the building. In general, the signage appears similar to the existing, and although not entirely of the most appropriate materials, does include applied timber lettering to the façade, and updated, and visually improved, external lighting to this and to the projecting sign. On balance, these aspects of the proposal, and the signage to the side of the building, are acceptable.

I do have concerns however regarding the replacement vinyl to the ground floor front windows, which is more extensive than existing, and of a bland design which will have a significant adverse impact on the appearance of this prominent elevation of the building, creating a largely dead frontage onto the pavement at this key focal point within the Conservation Area. This aspect of the proposal requires reconsideration, to ensure that this part of the building responds more appropriately to the context.

Although planning permission may not be required for this work, the repainting of the joinery to the building in a dark grey colour also adds to the deadening effect of aspects of the revised signage. Ideally I would suggest that this should also be revised.

Thanks,

Emily

Please note that this advice is given at Officer level only and is without prejudice to the formal decision of the District Council.

Submit your planning application online.
<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk>

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