

From: Emily Wade <Emily.Wade@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 March 2026 17:02:29 UTC+00:00
To: "Andy Watt" <Andy.Watt@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Worth Abbey Church DM/26/0330

Hi Andy

Comments on the above planning application – please also refer to my previous comments on the relevant pre-application scheme.

Worth Abbey Church is a Grade II listed building dating from 1964-89, which forms part of the Worth Abbey and Abbey School complex . The current proposal, which follows on from pre-application advice, is for internal and external works associated with the creation of a Welcome Centre within the Church. As the works would be covered by the faculty system replacing the need for listed building consent, only the external works requiring planning permission will be considered here. These comprise:

- Alteration of an existing recessed openings to the eastern and western ends of the narthex with glazed entrance doors, with associated signage;
- Works to the landscaped area around the Church to provide new paved pathways to the frontage of the building from the northeast, and to the new entrance to the eastern end of the narthex; and
- Alterations at roof level above the nave, including relocation of solar panels and 3 new condensing units.

The works to the eastern and western ends of the narthex were considered at pre-application stage and are not considered contentious, subject to detail, given the presence of the existing openings. Likewise, the works to the landscaping around the building are not considered contentious subject to detail.

The formal application also includes alterations at roof level, which I do not believe were part of the pre-application scheme. Although the relocation of the solar PV panels is not in my opinion contentious, the proposed condenser units would appear to protrude above the level of the parapet around the flat roof on which they would be sited. This raises concerns about the introduction of roof level clutter in the context of the main roof of the Church, which is undesirable and has the potential to detract from its architectural interest. This aspect of the proposal does not appear to be commented on in the submitted DAS or Heritage Statements, nor do we have details of the units. This further information should be provided, but I would advise that this aspect of the works may not be considered acceptable, and should ideally be reconsidered to find a less prominent position for the condenser units.

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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