

17 Old Convent - Design and Access Statement

This design and access statement accompanies planning and listed building consent application for works on number 17 Old Convent, RH19 3RS

History the conversion and objective of this proposal

During the original conversion (late 70's & early 80's) there was some internal alterations to the building to bring it in line with modern living expectations and the recent tenant has made investment to reinstate many of the internal historic finishes of the building.

The general theme of the application is to;

- is to allow for the provision for charging of an electric powered car in line with government directives utilizing green energy.

Listed building context

Please note that a full Heritage statement has been provided as part of the application, please refer to this for a full overview of the building, its setting, historical importance and reason for listing. A short history is provided here for completeness.

The Old Convent (formally known as Saint Margaret's Convent) was first listed in August 1972 and since then has been upgraded so it now holds Grade 1 listed status. A significant reason for the listing of The Old Convent is that it is an outstanding example of the work by the architect Sir George Edmund Street, one of the greatest architects of the Gothic Revival. G E Street is best known for designing the Royal Courts of Justice on the Strand in London. St Margaret's Convent was built between 1865 & 1890 with some extension by his son A E Street. The convent was built for John Mason Neale (1818 – 1866) who founded the sisterhood of St Margaret in 1855 during his time as Warden of Sackville College (East Grinstead) and he commissioned the Old Convent to be built. The Old Convent is a complex of ecclesiastical buildings which includes a chapel and is arranged around two main quadrangles. The architectural and aesthetic value comes from the picturesque and asymmetrical arrangement of the stone buildings in their landscaped setting and their Gothic revival design. The convent has had many uses over the years apart from its religious ones – it acted as a sanatorium during the war, as a school and as an orphanage.

The buildings at The Old Convent were converted to residential use in 1978 and at that point the chapel was deconsecrated, the convent has remained in private ownership ever since. The Old Convent is set in 11 acres of privately owned grounds which act as communal grounds / gardens to the 31 houses that make up the Old Convent community today.

The Convent is self contained with its own internal drive accessing all units.

The proposal in the context of the Design and Access Statement

The proposed works make no changes to the overall size or scale of the building, nor are there changes to how the building is accessed. There will be no changes to the internal layout.

The proposed works do not have a material impact on the exterior appearance of the building with the introduction of a low level power cable and outlet box being screened from view.



View today from [private] convent access road [grounds]

Schedule of works & commentary in relation to heritage impact.

Schedule of works

Hole to be drilled in external wall
approx: 25 mm dia. and positioned
200 mm above external paving level.

New cable to be run along external wall
at a height of approx: 150 mm above
pavement and external ground level.

Comment in relation to heritage of buildings

Minor alteration of building fabric to form small hole