

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE DATE: 27 August 2008**

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<b>APPLICATION REF. NO:</b>	<b>07/00893/DCLB</b>
<b>STATUTORY DECISION DATE:</b>	<b>26 October 2007</b>
<b>WARD/PARISH:</b>	<b>CENTRAL</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Clock Tower, West Row, Darlington</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	<b>Listed Building Consent for temporary attachment of Christmas lighting comprising small, white LED curtains (additional plan received 15 July 2008)</b>
<b>APPLICANT:</b>	<b>Darlington Borough Council</b>

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**APPLICATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION**

Listed Building consent is sought for the temporary attachment of Christmas lighting to the Clock Tower on West Row within the Town Centre. The lighting would comprise small white LED curtains to all sides.

The Town Clock Tower is a Grade II Listed Building and is located within the Town Centre Conservation Area.

**PLANNING HISTORY**

There is no planning history relevant to this application.

**PLANNING POLICY BACKGROUND**

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 – Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) is the main policy background in relation to the proposal.

**RESULTS OF CONSULTATION AND PUBLICITY**

English Heritage has recommended that the application is determined in accordance with national and local policy guidance. English Heritage also recommended that any consent be time-related to reflect the temporary nature of the proposed works and that fixing bolts be inserted into mortar joints unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The Highways Officer raised no objections to the proposal.

## **PLANNING ISSUES**

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment) states that many listed buildings can sustain some degree of sensitive alteration but also advises that listed buildings vary greatly in the extent to which they can accommodate change without loss of special interest.

The clock tower is obviously a very prominent and important landmark building in the Town. Its inclusion in the Christmas lighting display would be in keeping with its prominent and focal role within the Town Centre. The illumination of the clock tower has the support of the Town Centre Manager.

The lights can be attached without causing damage to the fabric of the Clock Tower.

As the application refers to a Council owned listed building, the application will have to be referred to the Secretary of State (Government Office for the North East) for decision.

## **SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect

## **CONCLUSION**

The proposal is for the temporary attachment of Christmas lights to the Town Clock Tower. The works would not detrimentally effect the listed building or its surroundings, a view which is supported by English Heritage.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT NO OBJECTION BE RAISED TO THE PROPOSED ALTERATIONS AND THAT THE APPLICATION BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE NORTH EAST) FOR DETERMINATION WITH CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS**

1. A5 - LB Applications (Implementation Limit
2. The white LED curtains shall be removed from the Clock Tower on or before the 1 March in any one year and not re-installed until after 1 October in the same year.

REASON - To ensure that the lights are of a seasonal nature and not permanently attached to the Clock Tower.

3. The fixing bolts in connection with the white LED curtains shall only be inserted into mortar joints unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

REASON – in order to ensure that the fixing of the lights does not harm the fabric of the Clock Tower.

**SUGGESTED SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR GRANTING LISTED BUILDING CONSENT**

The decision to grant Listed Building Consent has been taken having regard to Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment) and to all relevant material considerations.