

DC/2016/00378

RETENTION OF REDWOOD SCULPTURES OF THE DRAGON AND LEOPARD FROM THE BEAUFORT COAT OF ARMS

BEAUFORT HOTEL, RAGLAN

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

Case Officer: Alison Pankhurst

Date Registered: 20/4/2016

1.0 APPLICATION DETAILS

1.1 The application seeks permission for the retention of two redwood sculptures that have been placed close to the boundary of the Beaufort Hotel, Raglan. The application was received as a result of an enforcement case for the alleged unauthorised works to the site. The two sculptures depicting a dragon and leopard taken from the Beaufort Coat of Arms are fixed to the ground either side of the entrance to the patio area at the side of the Hotel. The structures measure 2.3m high with a width of 1.1m.

2.0 RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

Recent applications

DC/2016/00377	Installation of two retractable awnings over outside seating areas	Pending
DC/2016/00549	Changing of two window openings to door	Pending

3.0 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

Strategic Policies

S13 – Landscape, Green Infrastructure and the Natural Environment

S17 – Place Making & Design

Development Management Policies

EP1 – Amenity and Environmental Protection

DES1 – General Design Considerations

DES2 – Areas of Amenity Importance

HE1 – Development in Conservation Areas

4.0 REPRESENTATIONS

4.1 Consultations Replies

Raglan Community Council – no objections to the application as long as the consent complies with any advice offered from Cadw and the Conservation Officers.

MCC Highways - The application was the subject of a preliminary application where highway comments referred to the safety aspects of the structures being so close to the edge of the footway. I would have expected to have received as part of this application written statement of the anchorage of the same and the public liability confirmation. Subject to a confirmed safety audit being undertaken by the applicant and lodged with the application, I would offer no adverse comment.

4.2 Neighbour Notification

Four responses were received in support of the proposed application making the following points:

- Public works of art should be encouraged; these are outstanding and the village-scape is enhanced by their impact
- Great display of public art; the sculptures not only add to the historic story but also the trees used have been preserved for the future
- Enhance the village and give pride to our community

Six responses were received objecting to the proposal and made the following points:

- Prominent location
- Disturbed line of vision emerging from Castle Street
- Structures are crude, over-imposing, over-intrusive, immodest, spotty grotesques; total overkill
- The dragon statue is overpowering when walking past and totally out of place and not in keeping with the village; the one statue can obscure vision of traffic coming down from the High Street and could be potentially dangerous and the illumination may also cause problems for drivers. The structures are a great piece of art work but in the wrong place.
- No objection to the public works of art but not in keeping with the context of the surroundings; they are out of place and an eyesore.
- These statues are totally 'Out of Keeping' with the rest of Raglan. They look hideous. Would look better in a back garden or native Indian reservation.
- If located within the Inn itself I would see no issue at all; they would become an intriguing piece of decoration within the pub and restaurant. However, items such as this must be both relevant and complementary if they are to be located outside and become an integral part of Raglan, but should have both context and alignment with the overall atmosphere of Raglan Village, unfortunately these statues have neither. We have been told that the statues represent heraldic beasts on the 'Raglan Coat of Arms', I have also read that they are interesting pieces of art. To the casual observer they seem to be more representative of the statues one would expect to see at the entry to a theme park and if they are in fact artwork, they should be categorised under the Damien Hirst school of art. They do not belong outside the Beaufort Inn.

5.0 EVALUATION

5.1 Principle of the proposed development and visual impact having regard to its context in the Conservation Area

- 5.1.1 The application was submitted as a result of an enforcement case for the alleged unauthorised works at the site. The application is for the retention of two redwood wooden sculptures which depict the leopard and dragon from the Beaufort Coat of Arms. The two sculptures have been positioned on either side of the entrance into the patio area at the side of the Hotel and are therefore in a prominent position within the village. The structures measure 2.3m high x 1.1m wide and the dragon depth is 0.5m with the leopard depth being 0.6m. The leopard sculpture has been positioned in the alcove of the front porch and attached to the wall and is set back from the pavement; the dragon has been sited on the top of the dwarf wall of the corner of the patio area and is closer to the footpath. Both features are held in place by bolts so they are quite sturdy. There is a single small LED down-lighter over each structure.

The two sculptures although very prominent in their position and street scene are of a high quality design and are distinctive and of interest to the streetscene. The proposals are considered to preserve the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, and therefore meet the statutory test of the Town & Country Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The proposal is therefore considered to be in accordance with Policies DES1, DES2, and HE1 of the Monmouth Local Development Plan.

5.2 Highway / Public Safety

Following the consultation response from the Council's Highways Officer no adverse comments have been made regarding the retention of the proposed development, although Highways have queried the safety aspects of the structures being so close to the edge of the footway. The agent has been contacted in order to clarify this information, although this is not a planning matter and it would be the responsibility of the landowner to ensure the safety of pedestrians and road users in the vicinity of the sculptures.

6.0 **RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE**

Condition

1. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the list of approved plans set out in the table below.

Reason

1. To ensure the development is carried out in accordance with the approved drawings, for the avoidance of doubt.