

THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

The national charity campaigning for the Victorian and Edwardian historic environment

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Mr Peter Kingsbury
Senior Planning Officer
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW
pkingsbury@cardiff.gov.uk

Your reference: 09/00358/W
Our reference: 2009/06/005

08 June 2009

Dear Mr Kingsbury,

Former Hawthorn School, Hawthorne Road West, Llandaff North, Cardiff (Unlisted, 1898): Application for outline planning permission for residential development including demolition of the school building

The Society has been made aware of the proposals to demolish the above buildings and we are writing to **object** to the proposed works and to recommend that permission for this application be refused.

The former Hawthorn School is a particularly characterful late Victorian building with considerable townscape merit. Schools contribute a significant part of the local historic fabric and in many settlements they are often the most important building after the parish church. The shared experience that they represent across several generations can be a powerful source of community identity and cohesion. High standards of design can be found in historic school buildings and an indiscriminate approach to the demolition of these schools is short sighted. They are often suited to adaptation for other community uses and insulation, double glazing, computer cabling and lifts can all be added as appropriate. There are many excellent examples of old schools brought up to modern standards and others converted to residential dwellings.

Historic schools have distinctive assets. Firstly, they have generously sized rooms which offer flexibility. Secondly, the fabric is typically robust and usually allows adaptation. Thirdly, Victorian schools are important in the historic role that they played in early education provision and are valued symbols of their local communities.

Sustainability lies at the heart of the government's planning policy. Continuing the community use of an historic school building means conserving existing resources and reducing the consumption of new resources. The starting point for any proposals for these sites should be to make all reasonable attempts to creatively

incorporate the historic buildings in to new development, rather than the presumption merely being to demolish them.

We recommend this application be refused and would be grateful to be notified of your authority's determination in this case.

Yours sincerely

Kristian Kamiński