

F/24/96981 – St.John the Evangelist Church, St.Johns Road, Hedge End, SO30 4AF.

Context.

Built in 1874 to the designs of John Colson who built some eighteen new churches in the diocese and numerous alterations and extensions, together with twice as many schools and school houses, this church still stands proud in St. Johns Road. It is of course listed but only Grade II which took place in the last major listing tranche of 1983. There are no nearby conservation areas.

The Proposal.

The idea is to import topsoil to level the ground to the rear of the building and erect a canvas canopy. As this is a temporary structure that will not be seen from the main road or indeed from Church Lane when the hedge and trees are in leaf at least, there is no problem from a conservation perspective.

The proposed new raised level area has been kept clear of the existing mounding that is part of the church buildings setting, but does it need to be so high? Although the proposed site plan does not follow normal drafting practise and specifically indicate new levels, one can see that it is set at the mean level of the adjacent gravel parking bays.

The other concern regarding this proposal is that of the health of the line of grave stones on two counts, one, that the new topsoil does not come above the existing level and two that there is no damage occasioned by the grading operation by a digger bucket which is a distinct possibility in such close proximity.

Conclusion.

Presumably there will be a faculty application to the diocese for this and I do question the need for it to be at such a high level, which is likely to endanger the health of the line of gravestones and makes it more visible, but basically no objection.

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