

30 May 2023

Dear Richard,

Further to our recent exchange of emails, I write in relation to the proposed retrospective application for works to Rye Library (RR/3477/CC) which I understand your committee will be reviewing on Monday evening.

I'm not one to typically raise an objection to a planning applications and the library are very good neighbours. However, and whilst I have no objection to the new fenestration layout, I do have concerns regarding the proposed permanent railings to the large, rear, flat roof area. This seems an unnecessary intervention into the precious roofscape of Rye and will have a detrimental visual impact not only on the conservation area but also the adjoining listed buildings, including my building which is the former Barclays Bank at 30 High Street (Longer House).

In November 2022 temporary scaffold railings were erected to the roof (photo attached showing view from second floor windows of number 30). At the time I raised concern about their visual impact and was informed these were a temporary measure during the refurbishment works and would be removed. I was disappointed to see an application to make railings a permanent feature.

There should be no need for access to the roof other than for maintenance and it is therefore difficult to understand the justification for these permanent railings. If these railings are purely for maintenance purposes, then there are other less impactful, more cost effective, solutions which could be used to meet the CDM regulations. I have suggested to the applicant a man-safe solution which would have no visual impact and have offered to contribute towards it if it negated the need for the ghastly railings. Please see below link to suggested alternative solution:

<https://www.mantechsafety.com/fall-arrest-fall-restraint-and-rescue/mansafe-fall-arrest-systems>

I'd also like to draw your attention to the fact that the application drawings are incorrect and do not show the full extent of the wall height adjoining the garden of number 30, please see attached mark-up drawing showing correct heights, I have raised this with the planning officer.

If you or your committee members would like to view the railings from number 30 please do not hesitate to contact me and I would be pleased to arrange access.

Best Wishes,

John

John Bullock