

YORK CEMETERY TRUST KIOSK

18/00384/LBC | Single storey extension to form visitors centre with associated facilities and tool store | York Cemetery Trust Kiosk York Cemetery, Cemetery Road York YO10 5AJ

Stance: Support

Comment: The Planning Committee of York Civic Trust considered this application at its meeting on 10 May 2018.

York Cemetery is the most important historic cemetery in the city. It dates from the early Victorian period when it was designed as a garden cemetery. This has rightfully been recognised in being designated at Grade II*. The layout of the cemetery and its buildings, which include the Grade II* listed Cemetery Chapel and Grade II listed Cemetery Lodge, were designed by James Piggott Pritchett, an architect with a long-established connection with York (these include: the façade of the York Assembly Rooms; 2 Lendal; The Savings Bank on St Helen's Square, and Lady Hewley's Almshouses, St Savioursgate),

The prominence of the current potting shed alongside the Greek-Revival style Lodge to the front of the cemetery site on arrival, and its visible from Cemetery Road through the Grade II cemetery railings (in the autumn and winter months), makes this a sensitive site for development.

The Trust broadly supports the proposed scheme to build a single-storey extension to the potting shed to form a visitors' centre and tool store. However, we feel that this is missed opportunity to give the cemetery greater visual impact from the street. The cemetery's street elevation is currently divided as two plots: the potting shed area and a smaller plot for the Lodge. There is an unsightly concrete garage / store unit aside the latter. The proposed landscaping for the potting shed near the railings would be improved if it continued across both sites, and ideally with the removal of the concrete store / garage.

The Trust also considers that some of the treatment of the proposed visitor centre is trying too hard, especially through the use of the coloured aluminium gable entrance. The building would be more sympathetic to the location through a use of more muted, traditional and simpler materials.

Overall, York Civic Trust supports the application, but would request further consideration be given to improve the landscaping and general visibility of the cemetery from Cemetery Road, as well as reconsideration in using unsympathetic materials and styles for the visitor centre.