

Comments for Planning Application 18/02234/FUL

Application Summary

Application Number: 18/02234/FUL

Address: St Giles Church The Green Skelton York YO30 1XU

Proposal: Erection of detached building to house WC

Case Officer: Sandra Duffill

Customer Details

Name: Dr David Fraser

Address: Fairfax House, 27 Castlegate, York YO1 9RN

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Consultee response

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: York Civic Trust considered this application at its planning casework sub-committee meeting on 14 November 2018.

St Giles's Church is a highly important historic parish church in Skelton. Dating to 1247, the church has additional historic significance due to its reputed construction by masons responsible for York Minster's South Transept (either with leftover stone from the Minster or as a maquette for future building in the Minster; hence its alternative historic name being 'Little St Peter's'). Consequently, this church has been nationally recognised as a Grade I listing for its aesthetic and historic significance.

The Trust is sympathetic to the plight of parish churches in and around the city, due to financial pressures, but also, as is the case with St Giles, due to restricted provision of space and amenities to those who use them. For these reasons, the proposed external WC in the churchyard offers a sensible yet sensitive solution to meet the needs of the church.

Whilst the WC shed will have an impact on the setting of this heritage asset, albeit less than substantial, the Trust considers its ability to provide a needed amenity function for church users weighs the proposal in favour of the public benefit it offers, including 'securing its optimum viable use' (NPPF, para.196) as a church.

The Trust does however consider that the proposal might be improved upon should it use a wooden timber WC structure that lends itself more to the asymmetrical form of the one used at Holy Trinity Goodramgate (and used as an exempla in this application), rather than the symmetrical one proposed. This will diminish the possibility of the wooden WC unit being mistaken as a garden / potting shed.