

Design and Access Statement for Alteration to Civic Centre, Link 1A

Proposal:

Application of discreet window treatment on the ground floor offices of Link 1A to provide a safer and more comfortable working environment for The Confederation, Hillingdon CIC staff based at this site.

1. What features are on the existing site?

The Civic Centre was designed by architects, Robert, Matthew, Johnson-Marshall and Partners to contrast with other buildings in Uxbridge town center yet blend with local styles at the time. Inside, the traditional town hall layout of small offices was replaced with open-plan office floors, linked to a civic suite of meeting rooms, councilors' offices, the mayor's parlour, the council chamber, civic hall, and registry office.

Building work started in 1973 and was undertaken by a main contractor, Higgs and Hill, together with 40 major subcontractors.

Traditional materials were used, including red bricks and pitched tiled roofs, were used (similar to those that can be seen on homes throughout the borough. Covering an area of 8 acres, including extensive gardens and the paved entrance square. The listed building includes integrated hard landscaping, including paving, planters, steps and walls.

Pursuant to s1 (5A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ('the Act') it is declared that the interior of the building (that is, those areas enclosed on all sides) is not of special architectural or historic interest.

2. Please provide details of how access issues will be addressed

The changes proposed will not affect any access issues.

3. Please provide details of the layout of proposed development

No changes.

4. Please provide details of the scale/appearance of the proposed development

Little change is proposed to the external appearance. The change will be a minor change to the appearance of the lower part of the ground floor windows of Link 1A. The materials used will be plain - silver etch frosted vinyl applied to internal windows (670mm x 630mm) with a reverse cut logo on the window closest to the door, to help visitors and patients find us more easily.

The purpose of the change will be to obscure the view into the office from the busy corridors outside. This will allow staff to open the blinds, allowing them to access natural light without feeling threatened by visitors to the other parts of the Civic Centre staring in, or taking photos/videos of them, whilst working at their desks. Currently staff are not able to open the blinds, leading to a feeling of working in a basement with no access to natural light.