

DESIGN REVIEW PANEL

NOTES OF MEETING Wednesday 28th May 2014

Agenda and notes (where appropriate) can be viewed at the Council's website at:

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/living/designandconservation/designreviewpanel.htm>

Panel Members Present:

- Councillor John Bowcott (Chair)
- Marcus Beale
- Tim Day
- Paul Dodd
- John Herbert
- Alistair Huggett
- Tony Michael
- Terry Pawson
- Nick Waring

Council Officers Present:

- Paul McGarry
- Sabah Halli

Notes:

Item 1: Application, 13/P3508, **Shree Ghanapathy Temple**

The Panel supported the contemporary approach and felt the architecture was generally very good. They appreciated the way the new building reflects the institutional character of the temple and announces it to the surrounding townscape.

There was some discussion about how the buildings addressed the street. The new space was welcomed. It was felt a shame to park cars in the new open space. It may be possible to keep this area clear of parking, and reinstate on street parking across the frontage. Shade trees would help soften the paved forecourt and improve the microclimate, since it is south facing. The existing low wall in front of the church could be removed to create a unified and more open and welcoming frontage.

Where the extension meets the church, particularly in view of the processional route around the building, use of a recessed gap between old and new could

be a good way to make a successful distinction between the two. It was felt that as this was essentially a public building it was appropriate for it to have some distinctiveness in the street scene. The Panel urged the applicant to explore with the neighbour how the wood-yard entrance could be improved.

The Panel welcomed the model. Overall, this was felt a potentially very good scheme and it would only take a few changes to make it highly successful. Although it is a current application, the applicant confirmed that they would be willing to revise the scheme to take account of these comments. If these adjustments are made the Panel felt that the scheme would merit a Green verdict.

VERDICT: **GREEN**

Item 2: Pre-Application, No Number Yet, **Brown & Root Tower – Phase 2**

Pre-Application – Notes Confidential

Item 3: Pre-Application, No Number Yet, **Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium**

Pre-Application – Notes Confidential

Item 4: Application, 14/P1159, **37 Edge Hill**

The Panel were clear in their liking and appreciation of the design of this house. They particularly welcomed the render finish and were quite clear that an alternative use of brick would not be appropriate and would severely undermine the effectiveness of the architecture and quality of the design.

It was felt that the building and site clearly stands on its own, and not strongly related to the surrounding buildings. Therefore the render is considered to be not inappropriate. It is clearly a pavilion building and therefore appropriate for it to be unique. The Panel were also clear in their view that the quality appearance of the drawings must be seen through in the actual building.

It was felt that the building clearly stood alone – such as a pavilion or gatehouse – and did not form part of a discernable terrace. It was however, questioned whether the building was a little too high when seen from the road, though this was not a significant point. The effectiveness of the PV panels was questioned, given the amount of tree cover and it was stressed that Code 5 needed to be achieved. The Panel also recommended the production of a model to help the committee to understand the building and its context.

Given the large basement it was considered important that appropriate care was taken to ensure there was no loss of trees. Overall the Panel were clear

in their opinion that this proposal would be an enhancement to the conservation area.

VERDICT: **GREEN**