

RE: Planning Consultation Request for case ref:25/1051 (Rogerstone Library A...



Arnall, Guy

To Ostler, Marnie (Planning Officer)

Retention Policy 7 Year Delete (7 years)

Expires 01/02/2033



Tue 03/02

Hi Marnie

Re: INSTALLATION OF FABRICATED METAL ACCESS RAMP

Revised comments following submission of additional information.

Rogerstone Public Library is included in the statutory list as *“a well-designed small Edwardian library building in free classical style.”*

The building is principally viewed from Tregwilym Road to the south, where its richly decorated front is elevated above the low front wall at road level, and framed by its substantial side boundaries: a prominent position which contributes positively towards its setting (and therefore its significance). This setting has, however, been partially compromised by later-constructed access arrangements (ramp, railings and handrailing), which have eroded the green slope to the fore (see image below) and serve to visually distract from the asset itself. The existing access steps from road level also result from these alterations; being offset to north of the principal elevation and featuring a bright anti-slip finish, with associated modern nosing.



Undated early view of Rogerstone Library, from the south-east

Approach from the south-east (along Tregwilym Road) allows for part-appreciation of the full-height side elevation of the asset over its substantial boundary wall, wherein the building's front elevation (with cartouche-decorated pediment), its tall chimney stacks and fine ridge cupola are most visually prominent. Within approach from the north-west, views of the side elevation are more limited due to the diminutive nature of the side annexe (set behind the

high side boundary wall to the north), although the intersecting roof pitches with cupola, fine semi-circular doorway and oeil-de-boeuf porch window remain prominent.

This application proposes new access steps and a free-standing column-and-beam access ramp to the north-western side of the building, to enable direct access to (and from) the re-landscaped rear garden. The structure is to be set 50mm away from the building, meaning it is not attached to the asset. Minor modification of a lateral boundary wall will also be required to enlarge the garden gateway aperture, to ensure universal access. As proposed, the toothed red brick reveals to the existing masonry wall will be carefully reinstated to match the existing. Loss of the corresponding garden gate is of no concern, being evidently modern and of no historical interest.

Proposed materiality for the new is key, with principal concern being for the finished appearance of new steps to the fore, as they are proposed to increase in height to door threshold level. Revised information now states that these pre-cast concrete steps (and the ramp surface itself) will be coated in '*CooVar Suregrip*'. Provided the darker '*Grey*' colour is used, the visual impact of proposed height increase may be balanced against removal of the brighter, modern-finished currently in situ. The proposed handrailing will be powder-coated in *RAL 6005 Moss Green* to match the existing railings on site, thus reducing their overall visibility and harmonising them with existing arrangements.

Considering the modern nature of the existing access steps, the offset location of the proposed, and the relatively low visibility of the ramp structure to the rear, these works will result in only a minor level harm to setting (and therefore significance) of the GII listed asset. In my view, this harm may be balanced positively against the substantial public benefits brought by universal accessibility and continued viable use of this asset as a public library.

Many thanks,

Guy Arnall

Prif Swyddog Treftadaeth / Principal Heritage Officer
Swyddog Dirprwyedig (Adeiladau Rhestredig) / Delegated Officer (Listed Buildings)