Dartmouth and Kingswear Society
Conserving, Enhancing, Informing, Enjoying

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Protection of our Dartmouth Conservation Area

It is worth noting that the southern part of Southtown and Above town were included in the Dartmouth Conservation Area when it was extended and approved by South Hams District Council some 8 or 9 years ago. The Conservation Area is also part of the SD AONB and both need to be protected.

A comment in the Conservation Area appraisal undertaken at that time stated that the "historic and townscape importance of this area is immense". It was considered desirable to preserve and enhance its character and appearance "with special attention being given to new developments".

Now, after many months and numerous planning objections an application No. 3964/18/HHO is being considered by South Hams DC Development Management Committee on 11 March for their determination. This application seeks to build an external lift access and an associated bridge link at the Boathouse property in Southtown.

This application is closely associated with Manor Gardens which was described in the Conservation Area Appraisal as being "a green space and small park area" and "an important public open space with good views of the river". Other comments supporting the earlier Appraisal were thatbthere is "a frequent pedestrian route to the castle which provides a strong sense of the river viewed from the land, and, viewed from the river, a strong sense of the terraced character of the town's buildings".

This proposed planning application relates to the external access lift and the associated bridge link which are arguably "new developments" of the sort deemed originally to be undesirable and out of character and in appearance. The application is certainly not in keeping with the agreed objectives for the Conservation Area. If it were to be approved by the DMC on 11 March 2020 it would be totally contrary to the desired objectives in terms of character and appearance at this location of the Conservation Area. It should be rejected as unacceptable.

Robert Brooke