

Planning Committee – Update Sheet

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| P/FUL/2025/01150 | Site outside / fronting 11 South Street Dorchester | 7 | 59 - 70 |

UPDATE: Conservation Comments: Support

Context/Significance

The proposed site is situated outside Goulds Fashion Store in South Street, Dorchester on a new public bench which will replace an existing one currently located outside the store. The new bench is provided as part of the works. The proposed statue is located within the setting of nearby listed buildings and within the Dorchester Conservation Area. The two nearest listed assets being 10 South Street Grade II* and The National Westminster Bank Grade II. This is an important public space within the conservation area and contributes to the character and appearance of the wider heritage asset.

The Proposal

The proposal is to erect a statue of Sylvia Townsend Warner and associated works on a new public bench to be located outside Goulds Fashion Store (11-12 South Street), Dorchester.

Comments

I have reviewed the submitted information, visited site and would make the following comments. New statues within conservation areas play a vital role in enriching local cultural and historic understanding. This statue commemorates a significant local Dorset figure and cultural milestone, serving as tangible reminder of the area's heritage. As proposed the statue provides educational opportunities, allowing residents and visitors to learn about the historical narratives and contributions that have shaped the locality.

The new statue has been designed to have a limited impact on nearby listed buildings. By carefully considering the scale, materials, and placement, the introduction of the statue respects the historical integrity of surrounding structures. It seeks to enhance the setting of these and other historic buildings by adding layers of cultural context, enriching the narrative of the conservation area.

The introduction of this new statue enhances the aesthetic appeal of the conservation area. This is a thoughtfully designed statue and will complement the existing architectural and historical elements of the conservation area. Placed in this location the statue can become a focal point to draw attention to the area's unique character and charm. This integration of art, function and history contributes to the overall ambiance, adding to the conservation area and making it more engaging and visually appealing.

Summary

In conclusion, the new statue makes a positive contribution to the character and appearance of Dorchester Conservation Area and will not cause any harm to local heritage assets. This celebrates local heritage and provides educational value within the town centre. It is felt that the design and placement of this statue will become a new addition to the space that embodies inclusion, cultural and historical essences of the local community.

Warren Lever

Senior Conservation Officer 12th April 2025