



THE  
ARCHITECTURAL  
HERITAGE SOCIETY  
OF SCOTLAND

*For the study and  
protection of Scottish  
architecture*

AHSS Strathclyde Group Office  
Tobacco Merchants House  
42 Miller Street  
Glasgow  
G1 1DT

0141 339 1205

12<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Head of Planning and Economic Development  
P O Box 26191  
Kilmarnock  
KA1 9 DX

Dear Sir,

**Applications : 16/0209/LB and 16/0171/AD : External gable wall mural, 21 Loudoun Street, Mauchline, East Ayrshire, KA5 5BA.**

Thank you for your invitation to comment on application 16/0209/LB. It is noted that this follows on from a previous application : 16/0171/AD, Wall mural on external gable, Poosie Nansies, 21 Loudoun Street, Mauchline, East Ayrshire, KA5 5BA, (also known as 5 Cowgate) and 15/0300/LB of last year.

The building forms a continuation of others that are listed (1 to 17 Loudoun Street) being of similar scale within the streetscape. It is itself listed separately as category "B" and is within the Mauchline Conservation Area. Records depict it at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and it has historic associations with Burns. It provides a very important contribution to the setting.

The construction and implementation of this proposal requires the utmost attention to detail so that it does not detract from this historic, prominent and well patronised public house.

The documents appear to suggest that the repaired gable end on which it is proposed to erect the mural and Burns' verses is pink, which it is not, The photograph gives the impression that the background boarding would be blue in colour, with the painting effected in muted tones. The board itself should be white, to match the front façade of the pub itself. The diagram gives the intended quotation title and wording, but no idea of the font, colour or layout within the gable wall surface. Presumably the lettering will be in black or dark tan.

There is reference to an aluminium backing board with a white plastic face, on to which the mural would be affixed. The actual mural should preferably be on wood, as required in Design Guidance for signage on a Listed Building in this Conservation Area. The principles are that it be removable in the future and that be detailed to look appropriate to the

setting. The construction must not capture and hold moisture against the wall to which it is mounted. Anti- graffiti paint is clearly needed too, as is noted, although a finish that is easily maintained or replaced is acceptable.

It appears from the submitted photographs that the recently exposed walls have been rendered with cement mortar. While this is presumably immediate and temporary repair from when the extension was damaged and removed, it is quite inappropriate to the historic construction due to the way that this material reacts to moisture within the solid stone walls. (The photograph even illustrates this).

This mural will be examined closely and will be well photographed by the many visitors to Burns' haunts in Mauchline. It must be expertly executed and ALL details must be correct and, if simplified, then suitably respectful to the original.

It is of great concern that the sketches already display glaring errors:-eg. "BEGGAR'S" when the title of the poem is plural. BEGGARS is the correct spelling. The lettering style should be plain, simple and clear.

Our Society asks the Council to ensure that this proposal is carried out to the highest specification and that a watching brief is kept during the various stages of preparation and installation so that this mural is worthy of the Building. It must not detract, in implementation, from the buildings status or from its surroundings in any way.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) Audrey R Gardner,  
Chairman. Cases Panel. Strathclyde Group.