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THE
ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE SOCIETY
OF SCOTLAND

*For the study and
protection of Scottish
architecture*

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24th January 2016

Head of Planning and Economic Development
PO Box 26191
Kilmarnock
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Dear Sir,

Application : Hurlford Primary School 15/0229/PP and 15/0230/LB : proposed extensions and internal alterations.

*This is a repeat of comments submitted at the time, but which are not recorded as being received.

The Society has followed the various applications for this development over the last 2 years. It had been hoped that the refinements would have resulted in a better design which would complement rather than detract from this fine building designed by Gabriel Andrew whose Victorian/Edwardian buildings locally have all merited B Listing for their design and materials.

There is no Design Statement attached to the current applications. This would have aided our consideration of the need, the siting and the design. The previous such statement is perhaps still applicable, even though the wall materials have now been changed to red sandstone - a welcome amendment.

The proposed aluminium windows are unacceptable in form and materials. They do not reflect nor complement the existing fenestration. It is unclear why barrel roof lights are required. In this respect, the Society has concerns about what appears to be a partially flat roof, albeit with some mechanical plant indicated; to be concealed behind horizontal hardwood boards. We assume the aluminium louvres are required for kitchen ventilation: again these are a jarring feature.

This is an important building by Gabriel Andrew and merits much better detailing. Importantly, when a previous application was considered at committee in June 2014, elected members had considerable discussion/misgivings about an ugly flat roof. They were particularly concerned about accessibility on to it by vandals. Yet the new drawings appear to show a flat roof. There was reference to a slated monopitch roof previously which we assumed would be a lean-to.

If such major reconfiguration of accommodation is proposed, the Society regrets that the unsightly boiler flue which mars one elevation could not have been removed..
...perhaps having a small plant house formed as a separate low-key building.

It is noted that HES has been consulted. As with most buildings which have a lower category of Listing than grade A, they have not offered objections. However they state that a decision not to provide detailed comments or not to object should not be taken as support for the proposals.

The Architectural Heritage Society does however objects to the current plans; both in style and form, and in roof details.

The previous design statement stated that '***The aim for extension is to reference the aesthetics of the weathered shades of the school's characterful sandstone,*** whilst creating a distinctive honest component, deferential in its simplicity of form and light detailing design solution'.

The reference therein to '***a tasteful modern aesthetic***' is questioned by this Society. The current plans show extensions which do not sit at all well with such a monumental building where all 4 massive elevations are visible.

AHSS trusts that there is time and willingness to produce a better design which does not detract from such a fine & prominent Victorian building.

Yours faithfully,

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