Heritage Statement for 18 Coppice Hill, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1JT

Written by: Tom Murphy, Compass Garden and Landscape Design
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This development proposal concerns an area in front of 18 Coppice Hill, a Grade II Listed former Sunday School which sits adjacent to The Wesleyan Chapel, a Grade II* facade of a former chapel (the chapel is not in the curtilage of the property making this application but is highly visible from the site of the proposed development).

The chapel was commissioned in 1812 with the intention of replacing the chapel at the rear of the Town Club in Market Street. The chapel was completed in 1818 and ceased use as a chapel in the 1950s. It is believed that the small congregation then began using the former Sunday School (i.e. 18 Coppice Hill) as a chapel until the 1970s when the site was finally abandoned and from 1976 all religious worship had moved to St Margarets Street into the United Reform Church. The Chapel fell into disrepair and the dangerous parts of the structure including the roof were removed leaving most of the external walls still standing. It was purchased by the owner of a dwelling immediately to the north on Mason's Lane. She obtained permission in the mid-1970s to demolish the unsafe parts of the remaining parts of the structure and form an open air swimming pool for her private use. The pool is still there but was abandoned by the subsequent owners who gained planning permission in 2006 to build a dwelling within the remaining parts of the historic structure. The permission for the dwelling was never implemented. Prior to the construction of the chapel the land was used in connection with the woollen industry and used for the stretching and drying of newly woven broadcloth suspended on racks, and known as a rack ground.

18 Coppice Hill was used as a Sunday School when the Chapel was in use, subsequently used for worship until 1976 when the congregation joined with the United Reform Church and was then sold and converted into a dwelling in the 1980s. The subsequent conversion and refurbishment in 2007 required substantial internal alteration and reconstruction including removal of internal walls and staircase. The current owners have undertaken further works on the internal arrangement of the building, taking a more heritage-based approach.

This specific development proposal concerns a small upper area of the large driveway (currently modern clay pavers) which runs from the road (Coppice Hill) up past the entrance to the Sunday School and to the base of the steps to the Wesleyan Chapel. The plan involves the creation of a level patio, retained using a new natural stone wall (to match existing retaining walls in the garden) and surfaced with sandstone in keeping with the surroundings. In order to create a level surface the retaining wall will need to be approximately 450mm in height hence the need for planning permission. The patio will be reached by new stone steps from the driveway.

The new patio will enable the home owners to step directly from their front door onto a level patio, as opposed to crossing the steep driveway in order to reach the garden opposite. It will also create a more picturesque and appropriate setting for the entrance way to both the Sunday School and the Chapel facade, compared to the modern pavers currently installed.

