SALISBURY CIVIC SOCIETY

11 Ashfield Road
Salisbury
SP2 7EW
4 9 23

Joe Richardson
Wiltshire Council Planning Office

Dear Mr Richardson

PL/2023/06576 – Cross Keys House, Salisbury

I would like on behalf of the Salisbury Civic Society to object to application for listed building consent Nº PL/2023/06576, which seeks permission to remove eight plaster panels at the Grade II listed Cross Keys House, within the Salisbury conservation area, and replace them with windows.

The application sets out very clearly the difficulties caused by the 1970s insertion of a completely new interior behind the N and W walls of the listed building. It is understandable that for a residential conversion of the first floor, the addition of some new windows would help in dealing with these difficulties. Unfortunately, the detailed character for which the building was listed is such as to make the eight proposed windows completely inappropriate.

The plaster panels, with their incised decoration, are a fundamental part of the building's design. Of the eight which the application seeks to remove, the three on the W elevation are a key part of a plant trail, which stems from the central panel and which would be rendered meaningless with only the outer four panels surviving. The two curved panels at the E end of the N elevation have extremely characterful designs of imps among foliage, and the three panels further W on the N elevation have very attractive plant designs. All of these panels need to remain in their present state if the building is to retain its character.

The intention behind the proposal is understandable, but the detailed work required by this version of its implementation would have an impact entirely at odds with the building's listed status, and to the character of this part of the conservation area, to which Cross Keys House makes a very important contribution. Some other approach towards ensuring a viable use of this part of the building is clearly needed.

Yours Sincerely

Richard Deane
Secretary, Development Committee, Salisbury Civic Society

Copy: Andrew Minting