Our Ref: ACV/2023/00023
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Date: 10 November 2023

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Decision not to list Freemasons Hall (The Masonic Hall), Silver Street, Malmesbury, SN16 9BU as an Asset of Community Value

Having considered all the information and submissions provided, following the nomination of the above asset to be listed as an Asset of Community Value, Wiltshire Council has decided not to enter the property onto the list of Assets of Community Value.

The asset has been entered into a list of unsuccessful nominations, maintained online at http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningcommunityrighttobid.htm#relateddocuments. Documents in relation to this nomination can be viewed at https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0i3z00001C3Tnk.

This decision has been taken for the following reasons:-

Under the terms of the Localism Act 2011, if a local authority receives a valid nomination, it must determine whether the land or building nominated meets the definition of an asset of community value as set out in section 88(1) of the Act. A building or other land in a local authority's area is land of community value if in the opinion of the authority —

(a) an actual current use of the building or other land that is not an ancillary use furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community, **and**;

(b) it is realistic to think that there can continue to be non-ancillary use of the building or other land which will further (whether or not in the same way) the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community.

Section 88(2) of the Act extends this definition to land which has furthered the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community in the recent past, and the time which it is realistic to consider it might do so again to within the next five years.

The Masonic Hall has been occupied by Malmesbury Freemasons since 1958 and has not been hired as a community building, rather used for private, members only, use by the St. Aldhelm Masonic lodge.

It is therefore considered that the current use of the building or other land (or use of the building or other land in the recent past), that is not an ancillary use, does not further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community and it is not realistic to think that now or in the next 5 years there could be non-ancillary use of the building or other land which will further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community.

Signed
Simon Day
Performance & Service Development Manager
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