Development Management - Delegated Officer Report

Application Number: AWDM/0740/20 Recommendation – Approve

Site: Old Shoreham Bridge, Old Shoreham Road, Shoreham-By-Sea

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for installation of non-slip metal strips into grooves of planks on bridge.

Date of site visit: 4 August 2020

Neighbours checked: Y

Additional neighbour notifications: N

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application relates to the Grade II* Listed timber footbridge across the River Adur in Shoreham. It is proposed to install anti-slip metal strips into the grooves of the planks on the bridge as a safety feature as the bridge can get slippery when wet.

Relevant Planning History

None

Consultations

Adur and Worthing Councils: The Design and Conservation Officer comments that the application proposes the type of material that he had previously discussed. It seems a pity that the entire surface of the bridge needs this treatment, but this might be a health and safety issue although the application doesn't shed any light on this.

Historic England: On the basis of the information available to date, we do not wish to offer any comments. We suggest that you seek the views of your specialist conservation adviser.

Representations

None received

Relevant Planning Policies

Adur Local Plan 2017 Policy 15, 17
National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019)

Planning Assessment

Impact on listed building

The works will involve fitting the metal strips within grooves across the full width of the bridge. The applicant has clarified the extent of the works as follows:

"It is very much a health and safety issue that we are proposing the application of the non-slip strips across the full width of the bridge. We have received a number of reports from members of the public reporting accidents due to slipping both on foot or bicycles whilst crossing the bridge. We have also received a couple of claims following accidents and so we are under pressure to find a way of resolving this issue and making the bridge safer for people to use.

We are not proposing to fit the strips to every groove across the full width of the bridge, as per the Work Brief that we attached to our planning application (20200429-2048_1-Work_Brief(v2)) we are seeking to fit x3 equally spaced lines of RetroGrip anti-slip inserts per deck plank across the full width of the bridge. We have tried to minimise the amount of inserts so as to retain the decking feature but at the same time ensure a safer surface for users."

The works are clearly necessary for public safety reasons and it appears that the extent of the works has been limited to that which is necessary only.

It is considered that the application can be supported.

Recommendation

APPROVE

Subject to Conditions:-

1. Approved Plans
2. Standard 3 year time limit for LB

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation? N

The Local Planning Authority has acted positively and proactively in determining this application by assessing the proposal against all material considerations, including planning policies and any representations that may have been received and subsequently determining to grant planning permission in accordance with the presumption in favour of sustainable development, as set out within the National Planning Policy Framework.

Case Officer: Peter Barnett Date: 16 September 2020

Authorised by: Gary Peck Date: 16 September 2020