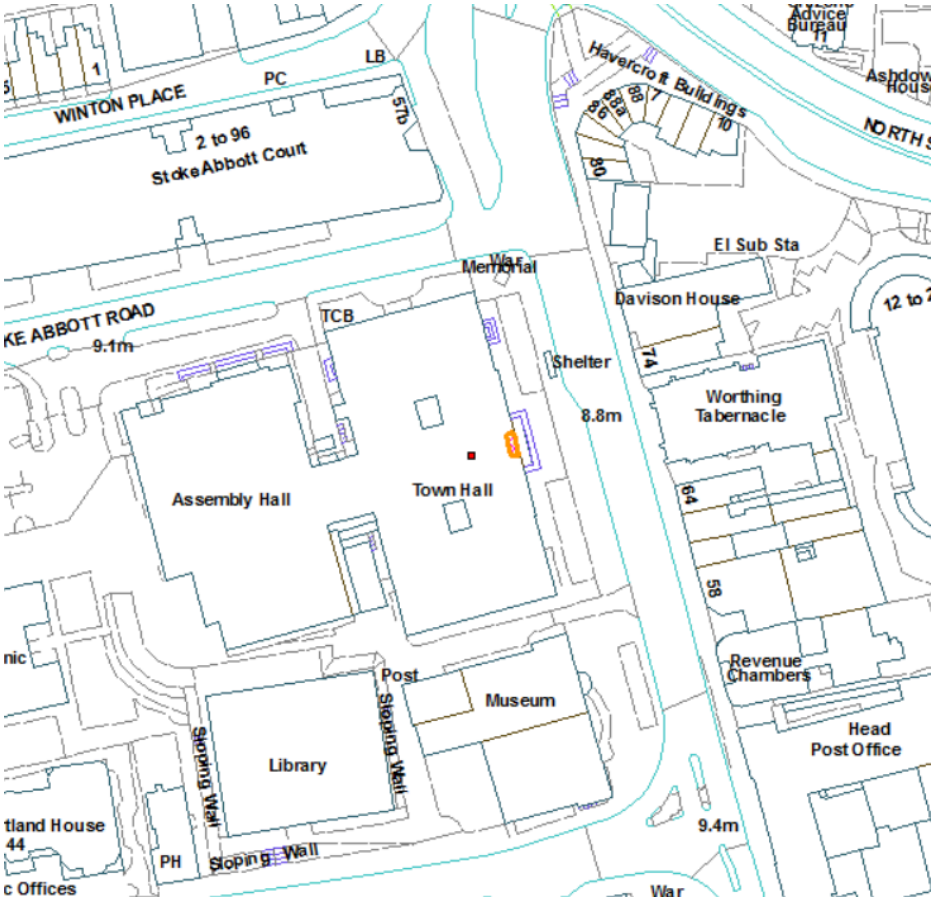
Application Number:	AWDM/0757/25	Recommendation - APPROVE
Site:	Town Hall, Chapel Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 1HA	
Proposal:	Listed Building Consent for wall mounted defibrillator in main entrance	
Applicant:	Ray Harris, Adur and Worthing councils	Ward: Central
Agent:	NA	
Case Officer:	Louise Prew	



Not to Scale

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Site and Surroundings

The site is located on the south-western corner of Chapel and Stoke Abbott roads. It contains Worthing Town Hall, a three storey building built in the Neo-Georgian style. The building is Grade II listed. The list entry is as follows:

1. CHAPEL ROAD 5406 Worthing Town Hall including Assembly Hall and Worthing Room TQ 1402 NE 3/228 II 2. Erected in 1933-4, C Cowles Voysey Architect. Detailing by J Brandon-Jones. The front part, the Town Hall, is in Neo-Georgian style. Centre and 2 wings. The centre is of 3 storeys red brick. Hipped slate roof with stone eave cornice Band below 2nd floor and plinth, 9 sashes in moulded architraves. Central Ionic Portico with motto "EX TERRA COPIAM E MARI SALUTEM" 1st floor windows behind portico have cast iron balconettes. Doorcase with console brackets. Clock tower with cupola, surmounted by ball finial and 8 Tuscan columns with plumed capitals. Flankings wings of 2 storeys in matching style. Red brick. Slate roof. Stone cornice and plinth. 5 sashes. Similar doorcases with entablatures and console brackets. The Assembly Hall to the rear derives from the Scandinavian Modernist style with Art Deco overtones. 2 storeys red brick. Cornice of bricks set endwise. 5 bays, the 3 centre ones projecting with 3 Art Deco style stone tragic masks over waves above 1st floor windows. Pivoting casement windows. Triple bronze doors with 8 panels divided by panels of stone rustication and wave pattened cornice with the letter W (for Worthing). Canopy above. 6 steps to street flanked by enormous stone urns on square plinths. The Worthing Room is a 1 storey addition in matching style to the West. The interior of the Town Hall has an impressive marble entrance hall having staircase with elaborate cast iron balustrade. The Assembly Hall has a room with Art Deco style reliefs with a marine theme star-shaped light fittings. The pressenium arch to the hall is flanked by relief sea horses.

The site is situated within the Chapel Road conservation area.

Proposal

The proposal is to install a defibrillator and box on the wall within the lobby of the main entrance to the Town Hall. The defibrillator would be installed on the wall as you immediately enter the building.

The box would be 38cm (height) x 42cm (wide) x 20cm (deep).

The application is before the Committee for determination due to it being a Council own application.

Relevant Planning History

None relevant

Consultations

Adur & Worthing Councils:

Conservation Architect: I have no objections to this application.

Worthing Society: I have now had the opportunity to discuss the proposal with our Heritage Team and I am pleased to advise you that the Society has no objection to this vital equipment being installed within a public building and in an easily obtainable position.

Representations

None received to date.

Relevant Planning Policies and Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework (2024)
Planning Practice Guidance
Worthing Local Plan 2020-2036 (2023): DM5, DM16, DM24

Relevant Legislation

The Committee should consider the planning application in accordance with:

Section 38(6) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 that requires the decision to be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Section 70 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) provides that the application may be granted either unconditionally or subject to relevant conditions, or refused. Regard shall be given to relevant development plan policies, any relevant local finance considerations, and other material considerations

Section 16 of Planning (Listed Building & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 which requires that in considering whether to grant listed building consent for any works the local planning authority shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

Planning Assessment

The main consideration for this application is the effect of the development on the historic character of the listed building, its setting and any special features of architectural and historic character that it possesses.

Special attention has been paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the listed building and its features of special architectural or historic interest, as set out within sections 16 and 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Paragraph 207 of the National Planning Policy Framework (the NPPF) states that in determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting.

This is reflected in Local Plan policy DM24 which states that planning permission and/or listed building consent will only be granted provided that the appearance, significance, or historic character of the listed building is not adversely affected.

The defibrillator would be located in the lobby entrance to the Town Hall and would therefore have no impact on the external appearance of the building or the conservation area. The defibrillator would be located within the building to minimise its impact but still provide it in an easily accessible location, providing a vital piece of equipment for use in the area. The scale would be modest and its location on a tiled wall would not adversely affect any important internal architectural features.

The proposal is considered to preserve the special character of the listed building.

Recommendation

GRANT Listed Building Consent subject to Conditions:-

1. Approved plans.
2. Standard time limit.
3. Materials as specified
4. Protect listed building
5. Make good damage to listed building