

Listed Building Consent 12/01748/LBC
at
37 Cammo Road
Edinburgh
EH4 8AW

Development Management Sub-Committee
of the Planning Committee

Previous Committee

This application was previously considered by Committee on **12.09.2012**

Outcome of previous Committee

This application has been continued for a hearing to give all parties the opportunity to address the Committee, and was the subject of a Committee site visit on 27 September 2012.

1 Purpose of report

To consider application 12/01748/LBC, submitted by CALA Management Ltd.. The application is for: **Removal of existing buildings at Cammo Home Farm for a new residential development (2 units).**

It is recommended that this application be **Refused** by Committee.

2 The Site and the Proposal

Site description

The site which covers 0.361Ha (0.89 acre) stands on the north edge of the Cammo Estate. The building on it was designed by Bailey Scott Murphy and David Morton Kinross, in 1908, and built circa 1910. It is C(S) listed and

designated as such on 24 February 1997 ref: 43935. It is an a-symmetrical, L-plan half-timbered building in the Arts and Crafts style and was originally built for Cramond Brig Golf Club.

The site is in the Green Belt, is part of a Designed Landscape, and a Site of Nature Conservation Interest.

The site is covered by a Tree Preservation Order 90 (no.4 - 1976 Cammo Estate) and the buildings contain a summer roost for bats.

Site History

The golf club building was converted to farmhouse circa 1952/3. The farmhouse and surrounding outbuildings were operated as Cammo Home Farm which served the adjacent agricultural land within the Cammo Estate. The whole estate was acquired by the Council in 1980 from the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), subject to various title conditions. As part of the conversion, the west end of the building (the former locker rooms) was converted to a milking parlour with several windows taken out and replaced by louvres.

The buildings and land are owned by the Council. A previous conditional sale approved by the Finance and Resources Committee on 27 January 2009 fell through due to the purchaser's funding problems. The property has been re-advertised for sale on the open market and this application is submitted by the preferred bidder. The Finance and Resources Committee agreed this sale on 17 January 2012.

The building was tenanted for a short while, but has been unoccupied for in excess of 10 years and is in poor condition.

May 2012 - applications were submitted to convert the building to residential use (planning references 12/01875/FUL and 12/01886/LBC).

Pre-Application Process

Pre-application discussion took place with Property Management and Cala Management Ltd. during which the Green Belt issues, proposed design and Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) test requirements for demolition were raised.

Description Of The Proposal

The application is for demolition of the main farm building together with outbuildings (657.7 square metres) and replacement with two five bedroom houses of two storeys, each with a free standing double garage with ancillary accommodation above (502 square metres). Materials proposed are natural clay tile roofs, cream coloured wet dash render and cast stone detailing. A full

landscaping scheme is proposed including a tree belt to the rear, new front courtyard treatment and repairs the front stone boundary wall.

Supporting Statements:

The applicant has prepared supporting statements in the form of Appendices 1-14, which include Cammo Estate Management 2011-2012 Plan; Sales particulars appendix 2; further Sales details Appendix 5; Structural Survey Appendix 6; Asbestos Survey Report Appendix 7; Bat Hibernacular survey; Bat Survey; Design and Accesss Statement (revised); The Buffer Planting Specification; Tree Survey; Heritage Statement (SHEP tests); Boundary Wall Delapidation Survey Report; Sustainability Statement Form; National Trust For Scotland letter May 2012; Historic Scotland Statutory List description Appendix 14.

A letter dated 20 August 2012 from the developer has also been submitted at the last minute in support of the application.

The above are available to view on Planning and Building Standards Online Services.

3. Officer's Assessment and Recommendation

Determining Issues

Do the proposals preserve the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses? If not, there is a presumption against the granting of consent. For the purposes of this issue, preserve, in relation to the building, means preserve it either in its existing state or subject only to such alterations or extensions as can be carried out without serious detriment to its character.

ASSESSMENT

To address these determining issues, the Committee needs to consider whether:

a) The demolition of the building can only be justified when set against the four tests in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy.

The four tests are:

- i) the building is not of special interest; or
- ii) the building is incapable of repair; or
- iii) the demolition of the building is essential to delivering significant benefits to economic growth or the wider community; or
- iv) the repair of the building is not economically viable and that it has been marketed at a price reflecting its location and condition to potential restoring purchasers for a reasonable period.

A summary for the case for the demolition of the building is provided in the supporting statements.

Under test i) to establish whether the building is not of special interest, the building is of special interest, being a substantial building of Arts and Crafts style golf club design by well known Edinburgh architects of the Edwardian period, Murphy and Kinross, who specialised in large suburban villas in and around Edinburgh. It is a fairly rare example of a club house of this period. The applicant disputes its special interest on the basis of its physical condition by saying *"It should be considered that there are many other better maintained examples of arts and crafts styled buildings throughout Edinburgh, including others by Murphy and Kinross, erected between 1840 and 1945. If greater selectivity were to be applied, the very poor condition of the building may reduce the justification for its listing."*

The conclusion is that the building is of special architectural and historic interest and this is recognised by its inclusion on the statutory list of such buildings. The building is category C(S) listed and Cammo Home farm represents a good example of a building in the Arts and Craft style and, although much altered internally, retains many of its original features, especially externally. It is therefore worthy of retention contrary to the applicant's statement that its condition detracts from its special interest. Every effort should be made to retain the building and there is a lack of evidence to support this. Scottish Historic Environment Policy guidance indicates that only where all efforts have been exhausted will consent be given to demolish.

Under test ii) to establish whether the building is incapable of repair, advice from two surveyors suggests that the building is repairable but at a significant cost (around £1m). According to the applicant, this would make the building uneconomic to restore set against its current marketable value, £900,000 for a cleared site. However, it could still be restored given sufficient funds by a restoring purchaser. Despite the information submitted by the applicant, there is no justification for the loss of the building just because of its poor condition.

Under test iii) whether the demolition of the building is essential to deliver significant benefits to economic growth or the wider community, the package for redevelopment of the site following demolition of the building and its outhouses by Cala, includes a sum of money resulting from the potential sale of the building and land, to be invested in the upkeep and running of the Cammo Estate. This is part of a current Conservation Agreement between the Council and the National Trust, as previous owner. However, much as this is to be welcomed, it amounts to a benefit only to the local community and does not represent the significant benefits to economic growth or benefits for the wider community that are required by the SHEP test iii). On this basis, the proposal fails.

Under test iv) to establish whether the building has been marketed at a price reflecting its location and condition to potential restoring purchasers for a reasonable period, the applicant's condition survey indicates that there is

evidence of decay and subsidence within the ground floor walls and the roof is in poor condition with water ingress apparent in places illustrated by rotting timbers. The applicant deduces it would be uneconomic to repair the building and quote a figure of just short of £1m to restore the building. In addition, the applicant's supporting statement says: *"The property was marketed nationally in Autumn 2008 (applicant appendix 2) with eight offers received by the closing date of 26th November 2008. The preferred bidder proposed to refurbish the property (applicant appendix 3). However, after a year of protracted negotiation it became clear that the proposal was not viable and the offer was withdrawn with the preferred bidder citing 'funding issues'."*

"Thereafter, the City of Edinburgh Council undertook a feasibility exercise in 2010 in order to assess the viability of restoring the former dairy farm to an sustainable alternative use. In this regard the reinstatement costs for Cammo Home Farm were assessed to be in the region of £980,000 (applicant appendix 4), set against an assessed value in the region of £900,000. Consequently, at that stage, it became clear that finding a genuine restoring purchaser would be problematic."

"Given that an economically viable alternative use appeared unlikely and that the remainder of the proceeds from the sale of the site were for the beneficial management of the wider estate, Property Development moved to a position that a case for the replacement of the derelict building by a new high quality development could be viewed favourably."

"Cammo Home Farm was remarketed in February 2011 (applicant appendix 5). Cala submitted an open market bid for the property in March 2011 based on the demolition of all buildings on the site and their replacement with two detached dwelling houses." Six offers were submitted in total, of which three proposed restoration. Two of the potential restoring purchasers were discounted as they did not provide sufficient detail within the information submitted with their offer to enable a full assessment of the deliverability of their restoration proposal. This included lack of evidence of having sought professional advice, lack of detail surrounding the likely costs, no information regarding access to sufficient finances to complete the restoration and in general a lack of detail demonstrating evidence of consultation with planning regarding surveys etc, which would be required to enable a proper planning assessment of any application which might be submitted. However, this must be considered as the SHEP test presumes against demolition where there is a potential restoring purchaser.

Historic Scotland state that *the second part of the test (iv) has been partly met by the marketing process outlined in the selection of preferred bidders report. This shows that the initial aim was to follow restoring purchasers, and their bids were investigated. Your Council should be satisfied that this investigation was appropriate and that the original bidders were not credible 'restoring purchasers' - in practice this has been taken to mean preserving purchasers, but reuse is clearly intended.*

Whilst the bidding process history is clear, and the cost of restoration is clear; estimated by both the Council (£976,000 in June 2010 and Cala in excess of £1m in 2011), the fact that restoring purchasers were present in the bidding process is sufficient to mean SHEP test iv) and therefore the application to demolish the Cammo Home Farm fails, specifically against this criteria, as a restoring purchaser was available in principle, regardless of any bidding failure or financial shortfall that there might be. This is further backed up by the current applications to keep the building and convert it to a house.

Historic Scotland state that the second part of the test (iv) has been partly met by the marketing process outlined in the selection of preferred bidders report. This shows that the initial aim was to follow restoring purchasers, and their bids were investigated. Your Council should be satisfied that this investigation was appropriate and that the original bidders were not credible 'restoring purchasers' - in practice this has been taken to mean preserving purchasers, but reuse is clearly intended.

Since the marketing closing date there has been a bid by a fourth party. The report notes that the fourth party would have no legal position within the sale process. Even this being the case, it will be difficult to argue that 'every effort has been made to retain' the building (the SHEP wording) if there is an alternative offer (albeit one outwith the closing date, and especially as this offer is accompanied by a listed building consent application for restoration of the building. This approach would tend to follow recent Reporters decisions where the marketing of a building (in demolition cases) is seen as a fluid and ongoing process, rather than a rigidly sealed process. This would strongly suggest the fourth, or any later bid, cannot be easily dismissed as part of the 'effort to retain the building.'

The conclusion is that the proposal fails to comply with the SHEP tests because a fourth restoring purchaser is available and that not every effort has been made to retain the building, as required by the SHEP. It would also Historic Scotland state that the second part of the test (iv) has been partly met by the marketing process outlined in the selection of preferred bidders report. This shows that the initial aim was to follow restoring purchasers, and their bids were investigated. Your Council should be satisfied that this investigation was appropriate and that the original bidders were not credible 'restoring purchasers' - in practice this has been taken to mean preserving purchasers, but reuse is clearly intended.

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suggest the fourth, or any later bid, cannot be easily dismissed as part of the 'effort to retain the building.'

The conclusion is that the proposal fails to comply with the SHEP tests because a fourth restoring purchaser is available and that not every effort has been made to retain the building, as required by the SHEP, and will result in the loss of a listed building of special interest.

There are no other materials considerations which outweigh this conclusion.

It is recommended that the Committee refuses this application for the reasons stated.

REASON FOR DECISION

The proposals fail to meet national policy tests on the demolition of listed buildings and do not comply with the development plan or the non-statutory guidelines and will result of the unacceptable loss of a listed building.

John Bury
Head of Planning & Building Standards

Contact/tel	Duncan Robertson on 0131 529 3560
Ward affected	A01 - Almond
Local Plan	Rural West
Statutory Development Plan Provision	Green Belt, Area of Outstanding Landscape Value, Designed Landscape, Site of Nature Conservation Interest
Date registered	18 May 2012
Drawing numbers/ Scheme	01; 02A-04A; 05; 06A; 07 Scheme 2

Advice to Committee Members and Ward Councillors

The full details of the application are available for viewing on the Planning and Building Standards Portal : www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planning.

If you require further information about this application you should contact the following Principal Planner, Anna Grant, 0131 529 3521, anna.grant@edinburgh.gov.uk

If this application is not identified on the agenda for presentation and you wish to request one at the Committee meeting, you must contact Committee Services by 9.00a.m. on the Tuesday preceding the meeting. Contact details can be found in the Committee agenda papers.

Appendix A



Application Type Listed Building Consent

Application Address: 37 Cammo Road
Edinburgh
EH4 8AW

Proposal: Removal of existing buildings at Cammo Home Farm for a new residential development (2 units).

Reference No: 12/01748/LBC

Consultations, Representations and Planning Policy

Consultations

Archaeology

Cammo Home Farm comprises a series of 20th century buildings centred upon the C (s) listed Home Farm building originally built in 1908 as the Cramond Brig Golf Clubhouse. This Arts and Crafts building designed by Bailey Scott Murphy and David Morton Kinross was converted into Cammo Estates Home Farm c. 1953. The site is also bounded by the early estate boundary walls dating to the early 18th century.

Accordingly the site and surviving buildings are considered to be of local/regional archaeological importance in terms of their association and links to the history of the Cammo Estate. Therefore this application must be considered under terms of the Scottish Government's Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) and Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) and also CEC's Rural West Edinburgh Local plan policy E30. The aim should be to preserve archaeological remains in situ as a first option, but alternatively where this is not possible, archaeological excavation or an appropriate level of recording may be an acceptable alternative.

The proposed scheme will see demolition of all buildings on site including the listed 1908 Home Farm. Such an impact is considered significant. However, it is considered that the loss of these buildings although regrettable would be acceptable provided that they are recorded prior/during demolition works. This will require the undertaking of a level 2/3 historic building survey of both the interior and exterior of the structures (annotated plans, photographic and written report) linked to an appropriate level of documentary research. Further

more given the sites location within the limits of the historic estate archaeological remains associated with the estates development and possible prehistoric occupation may be encountered. Accordingly in addition to the above archaeological historic building survey work an appropriate programme of archaeological works must be undertaken during ground breaking works. This is in order to excavate record and analyse any significant surviving archaeological remains that may be disturbed.

It is recommended that these programme of works be secured using a condition based upon the model condition stated in PAN 42 Planning and Archaeology (Para 34), as follows;

'No development shall take place on the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (historic building survey, excavation, reporting and analysis) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

The work must be carried out by a professional archaeological organisation, either working to a brief prepared by CECAS or through a written scheme of investigation submitted to and agreed by CECAS for the site. Responsibility for the execution and resourcing of the programme of archaeological works and for the archiving and appropriate level of publication of the results lies with the applicant

Historic Scotland

The attachment report (Selection of preferred bidders – closing date 16 March 2011) is useful in explaining the detailed process. We have also looked over the Heritage Statement received last week (25 July) from CALA which includes the appendices.

Following on from our letter of 4 July 2012 we would like to make the following comments. We have taken account of our guidance on Demolition in the Managing change in the historic environment document published in 2010. This document assists in the detailed application of policies contained within the SHEP.

The applicant has justified the demolition of the building by using SEHP test d), although it is also suggested that SHEP test c). (substantial public benefits) could be met as the ring-fenced funds from sale could be used for improvements to the Cammo Estate. Regarding test c). we assume improvements to the Cammo Estate could equally be met from the proceeds of a restoration project, and as this test can only be met when (substantial) benefits are dependent on the loss of the asset we consider this justification unlikely to succeed.

As we noted in our letter in July, SHEP test d). is a two part test. The first part of the test must prove that the building is uneconomic to repair, i.e. that it is capable of being repaired but that is repair/reuse would not be viable. Our

Demolition guidance would suggest that in order to do this successfully, especially where this test is the principal justification, there should be:

- 1.) A valuation of the existing building and site (a valuation that should not allow any 'hope value' for demolition);*
- 2.) A survey of repairs and costs should be submitted, (there have already been two produced with figures either side of £1m.)*
- 3.) An estimate of the value of the repaired building.*

In order to succeed there should be a deficit between the figures for repair/reuse and final estimate. Grant aid should also be investigated, although with a C(S) listed building it is most unlikely in this case. If the value of the repaired building were more than the £1m for repair then it is arguable that this part of the test could not be met.

The second part of the test involves marketing the building at a price reflecting its condition to potential restoring purchasers for a reasonable period. Again, the valuation should be for the listed building and site as it stands with no hope value for demolition of the historic Asset. Often the market it left to find this figure, and as it assumes the use of the site is uneconomic with the building in-situ, it may not always be a high figure. The normal period of marketing is taken at six months.

Looking at the first part of the test, although two figures for the costs of restoration have been produced, there does not appear to have been a valuation of the site as it stands (only offers invited). There also does not appear to be an estimated valuation for a restored building. The reports simply state that the cost of repairs is in the region of £1M, and thus the building is uneconomic to repair. Your Council should be satisfied with the figures for repair costs, and then whether a restored building would be worth more than £1M.

The second part of the test has partly been met by the marketing process outlined in the selection of preferred bidders report. This shows that the initial aim was to follow restoring purchasers, and their bids were investigated. Your Council should be satisfied that this investigation was appropriate and that the original bidders were not credible 'restoring purchasers'. In practice this has been taken to mean preserving purchasers, but reuse is clearly intended. Also, it is not clear whether the period of marketing meets the expected six months.

Since the marketing closing date there has been a bid by a fourth party. The report notes that the fourth party would have no legal position within the sale process. Even this being the case, it will be difficult to argue that 'every effort has been made to retain' the building (the SHEP wording) if there is an alternative offer (albeit one outwith the closing date), and especially as this offer is accompanied by a listed building consent application for restoration of the building. This would clearly indicate that the offer is a serious alternative to demolition, although your Council may wish to receive further assurances on credibility if necessary. This approach would tend to follow recent

Reporter's decisions where the marketing of a building (in demolition cases) is seen as a fluid and ongoing process, rather than a rigidly sealed process. This would strongly suggest the fourth, or any later bid, cannot be easily dismissed as part of the 'effort to retain the building'.

In conclusion, your Council should be satisfied that the original bids have been fully investigated, that the marketing period was appropriate, and that the later bid for the building is not credible before agreeing to the loss of the listed building.

If your Council would find it beneficial to discuss the case further we would be happy to meet to do so.

Notwithstanding our comments above, we confirm that your Council should proceed to determine the application without further reference to us.

Representations

The application was advertised on 1 June 2012. Three letters have been received, including that from the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland and RCAHMS.

The Architectural Heritage strongly objects to the demolition of the building because it is of high quality and well-detailed and that the economic benefits of funding the Cammo Estate through the sale of the site should not outweigh this consideration.

Other objections and comments include:

- Should not be demolished where an application exists to restore.
- RCHAMS indicate the building should be fully recorded before demolition, under current legislation.

The above comments are addressed in the SHEP test analyses in the Assessment section of this report.

Full copies of the representations made in respect of this application are available in Group Rooms or can be requested for viewing at the Main Reception, City Chambers, High Street.

Planning Policy

The site is allocated a part of the Edinburgh Green Belt, and a Designed Landscape as part of the Cammo Estate. It is also part of an Area of Outstanding Landscape Quality, and a Site of Importance for Nature

Conservation. The site is covered by a Tree Preservation Order, 90 (No.4 - 1976 Cammo Estate).

National Policy Guidance

The Scottish Historic Environment Policy sets out the Government's policy on built heritage.

Relevant Policies:

Relevant policies of the Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan.

Policy E32 seeks to ensure that proposals affecting a listed building will be considered for their effect on the character of the building. The restoration of architectural character will be an overriding consideration. Alterations will only be permitted where they respect the architectural integrity of the building.

Non-statutory guidelines 'ALTERATIONS TO LISTED BUILDINGS' provide general guidance for assessing proposals for both internal and external alterations, including alarm boxes and access stairs on listed buildings.

Appendix B



Application Type Listed Building Consent
Application Address: 37 Cammo Road
Edinburgh
EH4 8AW

Proposal: Removal of existing buildings at Cammo Home Farm for a new residential development (2 units).

Reference No: 12/01748/LBC

Conditions/Reasons associated with the Recommendation

It is recommended that this application be Refused by Committee, for the reasons below.

Reasons:-

1. The application fails to meet the criteria set down in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy tests for demolition of listed buildings and not all efforts to seek a restoring purchaser have been exhausted.
2. The proposal is contrary to Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan Policy E32 in respect of listed buildings, as failure to restore the building is contrary to the retention of its character as an early 20th century golf club design
3. The proposals would result in the loss of a building of special architectural interest which was designed by the renowned Edinburgh Architects Murphy and Kinross in the arts and crafts style in 1910.

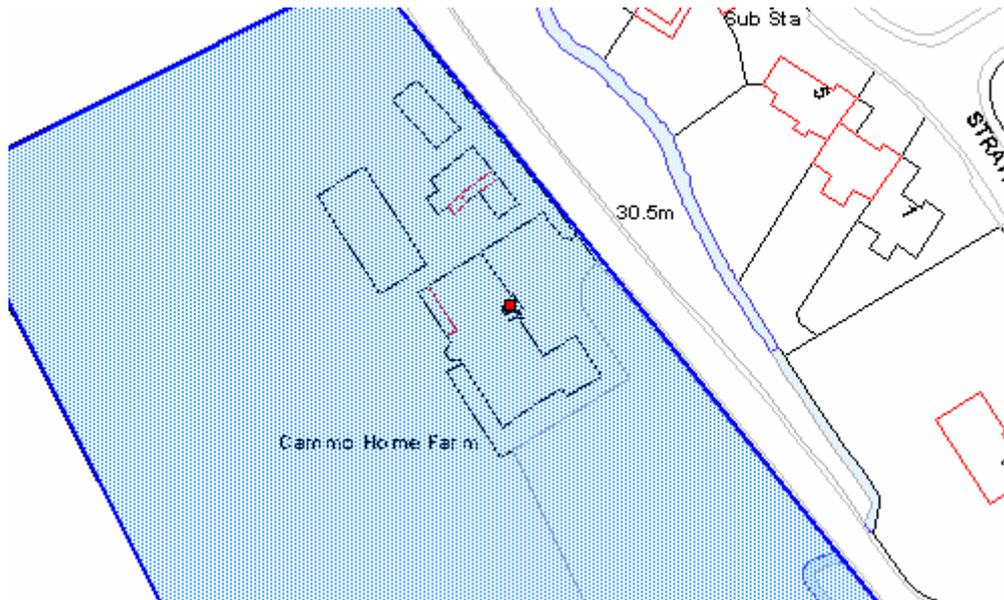
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Appendix C

Application Type Listed Building Consent

Proposal: Removal of existing buildings at Cammo Home Farm for a new residential development (2 units).

Reference No: 12/01748/LBC



Location Plan

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