RIPON CIVIC SOCIETY

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North Yorkshire Council (Harrogate area)
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3rd December 2023

Dear Sirs

Planning Application ref. no: 20/02973/EIAMAJ
21 And 38 Engineers Claro Barracks, Chatham Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2RD

The Society wrote to Harrogate Borough Council on 9th October 2020 and 17th February 2022 in response to the above application. On the latter occasion we raised the importance of protecting the military heritage within the planning permission. As you are aware, the Ripon Military Heritage Trust has since been established to preserve the nationally important structures and buildings within the Clotherholme site and has continued to work with Homes England to achieve this. The Trust has the full support of the Civic Society.

Both the Society and the Trust spoke at the Harrogate Council Planning Committee meeting on 23rd February 2023 and were reassured by the Members' agreement at the meeting of terms in the draft Section 106 Agreement for a strategy to secure military heritage within the site and of draft conditions 37 and 48 which also relate to the military heritage.

Since then, the Trust has had a number of meetings with Homes England, Defence Infrastructure Organisation and the Ministry of Defence to progress the project and the Civic Society has been kept up to date with the position. However, it now appears that Homes England may be of the view that it is not necessary to include the military heritage in the Section 106 Agreement and that conditions alone would be sufficient protection. Both the Society and the Trust are alarmed by this suggestion, which goes against the agreement by elected Members at the above-mentioned meeting. We consider that inclusion in the Section 106 Agreement is essential in that it would give more weight to the development and implementation of a strategy for the protection, preservation and interpretation of the heritage assets on the site than a condition in the outline consent. Such conditions could also be put at risk by being superseded by a future full planning consent.

We therefore request that a recommendation is made to the Strategic Planning Committee that, as previously agreed by elected Members, terms are included in the Section 106 Agreement, in addition to the agreed conditions, that will ensure the protection, preservation and interpretation of the heritage assets on the site.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Wigginton

Ripon Civic Society