

Local GCR Building in Danger! We Need Your Help

You may know of the old GCR Wagon works in Upperton Road, Leicester, which is shown on the original GCR plans at the time of building. This is a beautiful 4-road brick-built shed in true GCR style with high rounded windows, pitched and slated roofs and superb detail to the brickwork on the gables. The slightly smaller building across the canal end of the building is the old smithy, complete with a louvered vent roof. Apart from a simple single-storey extension, the building remains as built.



This building now has an application in to Leicester City Council for demolition in favour of (would you believe) yet more student flats. Considering there is already a huge tower block of student flats going up virtually next door, and there is a surfeit of student accommodation in Leicester anyway, the application seems ludicrous and un-necessary. I have attached a photo (above) of this beautiful piece of GCR architecture. This must be the last complete GCR structure left in Leicester, and considering the impact and influence that the GCR had on the history and development of Leicester, it must not be allowed to be demolished

It should also be realised that since 25th March a change in UK law means that all demolitions require planning permission and for the first time this extends a measure of protection to buildings on the 'Local Interest List.' This building is on that list, being the former Great Central Railway Wagon Works. This is very much a test case for Leicester and I ask you to please object by writing in your own words, quoting the reference below.

We need every reader of this newsletter, and every Friend of the GCR, to write in to Leicester City Council and make an objection to the application.

Please send it to Leicester City Council, for the attention of Mrs Patterson, Planning Management & Delivery Dept, New Walk Centre, Leicester, LE1 6ZG, quoting planning reference 20111143. The site address is 2, Upperton Road, Leicester. Alternatively, you can e-mail to planning@leicester.gov.uk for the attention of Mrs Patterson. Knowing the loyalty and affection felt by supporters of the GC, plus any right-minded person who recognises classic architecture, I know that you will rally to the support of this campaign. **You only have until 23rd August to register your objection, so please do it now.** The objection is supported by the Leicester Civic Society.

Thank you.

Tony Sparks

Source: Great Central Railway Weekly Newsletter, 17 August 2011

Receive the newsletter direct to your inbox!

Subscribe at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GCR-Announce> or send a blank email to GCR-Announce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com