

Workhouse Cottages,  
Workhouse Lane,  
Little Horkesley,  
Colchester CO6 4DS

27 October 2013

Mr Robert Cook,  
The Planning Inspectorate,  
Room 3/02 Temple Quay House,  
2 The Square,  
Bristol BS1 6PN

Dear Mr Cook,

**PINS Ref:APP/A1530/A/13/2195924 – Chantry House, Horkesley Park**

The Dedham Vale Society would like to comment on the granting of Grade 2 Listed Status to the Chantry and the impact of this on the application currently being considered in the above Appeal.

The Chantry is an important property within the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and in the above application is planned to become an Art Gallery and the site of a Chinese Garden, both important elements in planned development of Horkesley Park.

The Appellant plans to hold major works of art in the Chantry for the benefit of the visitors. Such an art gallery would require extensive security and environmental controls to be created before any such works of art would be loaned to the gallery. The Firstsite Art Gallery in Colchester provides an excellent example of the work that would be required to guarantee security and protection and this was a “new build” in a town centre.

It is impossible to accept that these works could be designed in such a way not to impact on the external and, indeed, internal structure of a Grade 2 listed building and in the application no indication has been given by the Appellant of how these works could be achieved to the satisfaction of English Heritage.

Additionally the position of the Chantry on a hill overlooking the Dedham Vale is an important factor in its recognition as a Grade 2 Listed property. However, it is planned to erect a Chinese Garden within its grounds – a structure of rocks, water, limited planning and a tea room! This would be totally out of keeping with the peace and tranquillity of an AONB and the surrounding countryside.

Until the Appellant comes up with a detailed plan, developed in association with English Heritage, on how an Art Gallery and Chinese Garden can be accommodated in a listed property, this application must be rejected.

Yours sincerely,

J R Drury

DVS Essex Planning Secretary