

DURHAM CITY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FORUM



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19th June 2017

Development Management (Central and East)
Regeneration and Economic Development
Planning Department
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

Dear Development Management (Central and East)

DM/17/01555/FPA: Albert House 33 Silver Street Durham DH1 3RE: Conversion of the existing building into 18 self contained student apartments and a reduced commercial/retail floorspace; alteration to elevations of listed building to provide new access and fenestration.

I am writing as Chair of the Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum to object to the above proposal. Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum (NPF) is the approved body preparing a neighbourhood plan for the unparished historic central part of Durham City, including the application site. We have prepared a draft plan, which we intend should go out for public consultation in September and October.

Our draft policies seek to support the retail offer and new office and business enterprises in the city centre and specifically in Fowlers Yard/Back Silver Street which already thrives with craft and specialist shops.

We therefore oppose the proposed reduction in commercial/retail floorspace at 33 Silver Street which is a key part of the city centre and we oppose the proposed use of the property in Back Silver Street for student accommodation when it should more appropriately be used for commercial/business/retail/craft workshop purposes to further enhance the existing cluster of these uses.

Yours faithfully

Roger Cornwell
Chair, Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum