North Hertfordshire District Council
Building Conservation comments

File Ref: 18/00738/LBC
Date: 24/05/2018
Planning Officer: BG
Address: The Bucks Head, Stevenage Road, Little Wymondley, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7HY
Subject: Replacement illuminated and non-illuminated signage.

These comments relate to amended scheme received on 24th May 2018.

Painting the exposed beams
I previously stated that *"…It is considered that applying a paint finish would occasion harm to the building's special interest. I would not, however, be adverse to a subtle change in the colour of the render (precise colour to be agreed)".* I note that painting the exposed beams is now omitted from the scheme which is to be welcomed, however, revised drawing 11739-Scheme2aKB still shows in the colour key block bottom right that the beams are to be painted RAL 7038 and the render RAL 7035 even though these are not shown as such on the image provided.

Signage colour/wording
I am just a little confused by the latest submission in that whilst Sign C appears to have been reduced on drawing 11739-Scheme2aKB, Sign C on drawing no. 11739-planning AH is still shown as being 1.5m x 2.8m. This suggests that either the original elevation image did not show Sign C to the correct size or that drawing no. 11739-planning AH has not been amended to reflect the reduction in size. Without having a metric scale survey drawing of the side elevation there is no way of knowing which of the elevation images is more correct considering that they both apparently show a sign measuring 1.5m x 2.8m. If drawings are not to be provided, I suggest that dimensions of the height of the first floor exposed studwork and the size of Sign C are added to the image.

Lighting Scheme
Whilst suggesting previously that the lanterns are omitted altogether, it is noted that the applicant has opted to retain them and change their casing colour from copper to black. These will at least appear less strident on the listed building. It is noted that the lanterns are no longer shown on drawing no. 11739-planning AH but the reference to one of the sign colours being a 'copper finish' remains in the bottom right hand corner.

Recommendation
On balance, the fact that i) the exposed beams are no longer proposed to be painted (see reference to colour key block); ii) Sign C has apparently been reduced (clarification still required) and iii) the copper finished lanterns have been replaced with black lanterns, I am minded to conclude that no harm would be occasioned to the building's special character. I, therefore, raise **NO OBJECTION** on the basis that the proposal satisfies Section 16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and as supported by the aims of Section 12 of the NPPF and Policy HE1 of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011 - 2031 (Proposed Submission, October 2016).

Mark Simmons - Senior Conservation Officer