

Planning Applications Committee

9 March 2023

Item 4(b) Application no 22/01500/NF3 – Homage to Sir Thomas Browne Statue Hay Hill and Elm Hill Gardens, Norwich

Norfolk Contemporary Arts Society, has made the following comments in response to the officer report, which will be read out at committee on his behalf:

Paragraph 7 *“The proposal is now for the demolition / removal of Homage to Thomas Browne sculpture into secure storage.”*

NCAS comment - Please define 'secure storage' now. Please add condition in respect of the location of the proposed storage site, the removal methodology, transport method, and the necessary measures to protect the pieces from harm in their secure storage.

Paragraph 8 *“The applicant’s intention is also to revisit sites for relocation and submit a further planning application for a relocation site in due course. This also aligns with earlier Page 33 of 54 consultation comments from heritage or arts societies who wished to discuss further any options for finding suitable sites for the sculpture.”*

NCAS comment – “Please replace 'due course' to read 'within 6 months of the date of this approval.’”

Paragraph 24. *“Whilst the Homage statues contribute to some extent to the existing layout on Hay Hill, their relevance and benefit to the area will be much reduced in the new proposals and it is seen as appropriate to seek to relocate the sculptures to a new home within the city.”*

NCAS comment - “When the Homage statues are re-sited to a new home in the city they should be celebrated in some form to explain their layout, significance and history.”

Paragraph 25. *“Various societies have come forward as part of the consultation on the application and on the refurbishment proposals and whilst regretting and giving strong comment on the artistic merit and worth of retaining the sculptures in-situ have in some respects also put forward options to condition the removal of the Homage subject to further discussion on alternative locations and options for heritage interpretation on Hay Hill to mark the former presence of the sculptures.”*

Paragraph 26. *“Options for interpretation seem feasible and could build in further links between the Hay Hill site and surrounds and possible future location of the sculpture. Such a condition appears to be appropriate and potentially opens up or furthers a discussion with various interest groups for the re-use of the sculptures”.*

NCAS comment - “We would like to actively contribute to further discussion on alternative locations and options for heritage interpretation on Hay Hill to mark the former presence of the sculptures.”

Paragraph 26. *“Details of the long-term storage arrangements for the sculpture are also suggested to be agreed by condition to help ensure its safe retention. In principle the proposed removal of the sculpture is therefore considered to be appropriate.”*

NCAS comment - "Long-term storage" suggests a period greater than 6 months. A period of 6 months should be the condition."

Paragraph 31. *“It is noted that the collection of sculptures representing the Homage were ideally intended to remain with the Statue, reflecting the subjects work and positioned with reference to main viewpoints for the Statue. It is considered that the Homage today is largely appreciated in isolation from the Statue, no interpretation is provided in the immediate vicinity of the Homage to communicate this association, and instead is remote from the pieces, therefore the connection between the Statue and the Homage pieces is not strong and is of little or no enhancement to an understanding of the significance of the Statue. With the repositioning of the Statue within Hay Hill, the link between the Statue and the Homage is further eroded. The explicit link between Sir Thomas Browne and St. Peter Mancroft made with the listed Statue at Hay Hill will remain unchanged by the removal of the Homage.”*

NCAS comment “The connection between the Statue and the Homage pieces could be strong. An interpretation provided at both Hay Hill and at the new site of the Homage sculptures could provide enhancement to an understanding of the significance of the Statue & the Homage sculptures.”