

3rd April 2017

By email from hinton@clara.net

Liz Hobden
Head of Planning
Brighton and Hove City Council

Dear Liz

I am writing to express our serious concern regarding the latest development at the grade 1 listed Marlborough House in the Old Steine.

A “conservation update” was presented to the CAG on 7 February pointing out that scaffolding had been erected on the front of the building with the intention of painting it. The update continued “The owner’s representative has been advised that this would require Listed Building Consent and should not be carried out without Consent. Any painting would be a contentious proposal that would require proper justification”.

The front façade has now been painted apparently without any attempt to obtain the necessary consent.

Marlborough House is a unique example on the south coast of an Adam style home with a front elevation in Liardet’s cement, a patent oil-render invented by John Liardet. The façade has previously been painted but during the 1990’s, following the sale of the property by the Council, it was restored to its original Liardet’s style of finish. This restoration was undertaken with the approval of English Heritage and BHCC via a Listed Building Consent. As a result we believe that it became fully protected as a part of the historic property.

We are extremely disappointed to learn that despite this protection and despite specific advice from the Council’s heritage team it has now, once again, been defaced.

The protection of listed buildings from unauthorised development is a vital function of the local planning authority. We believe that action must now be taken by the authority to achieve the restoration of the façade to its previous un-painted condition. Steps should also be taken to penalise the owner of the property for blatant disregard of their responsibility for the proper protection of the building’s heritage status.

We look forward to hearing what action the authority will be taking.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Roger Hinton
Chair of the Regency Society

Copies to: Cllr. Warren Morgan, Cllr. Julie Cattell, Historic England South East, The Argus, The Brighton and Hove Independent, Latest TV, BBC South, members of CAG.