
THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY
The champion for Victorian and Edwardian architecture

Gwawr Teleri Hughes
Planning Department
Gwynedd Council
Ffordd y Cob
PWLLHELI
Gwynedd
Wales
LL53 5AA

Your reference: C15/0533/11/LL
Our reference: 2015/09/015

22 September 2015

Dear Ms Hughes

**RE: Bangor Railway Institute, Euston Road, Bangor (1898, extended 1905);
application for the demolition of the building and the construction of twenty-
seven student apartments**

Thank you for consulting the Victorian Society on this application. We **object** to the proposed demolition of the former Bangor Railway Institute, which would deprive the area of a notable building of local importance.

Bangor's Railway Institute was constructed by the London and North Western Railway. It opened in 1898 and was extended in 1905. Like other such admirable institutions, it was intended to provide recreational and educational facilities for employees of the railway, and as a central hub for a large number of people, many of whom occupied houses in nearby streets. Architecturally it is one of the most distinguished buildings in the vicinity, with particularly attractive elevations to its more public western and southern sides. It displays numerous decorative touches which contribute a great deal to the buildings' pleasingly ornamental and highly characterful appearance. It is clearly an unlisted building of considerable merit, and one that contributes very positively to its surroundings. I note that the Council's Archaeologist has highlighted the building's historic and cultural value, stressing that it is regionally an "*uncommon example*" of a Railway Institute. I note also the Conservation Officer's advice that this is an important building, the retention of which should be a Council priority.

The demolition of the historic building, as proposed, would cause harm by depriving the area of an important building, one that possesses historic and architectural interest and which contributes much to the character, appearance and understanding of the local area. No justification is provided for the harm that would be caused by its demolition.

It is worth considering that there are a number of uses to which this building could be put. Furthermore, the open land to the side and rear allows ample space on which to erect sympathetically designed new buildings, whilst retaining the historic structure.

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In light of the above, we **object** to this application and urge you to **refuse** it consent.
The building ought to be retained and incorporated into any redevelopment of the site.

I would be grateful if you could inform me of your decision in due course.

Yours sincerely

James Hughes

Conservation Adviser

cc Eryl Williams (Gwynedd Council)

Lucie Carayon (Ancient Monuments Society)