

29 MAR 2022

Ref : MRH/REL/TAO/2333

Planning & Regeneration Services
Gravesham Borough Council
Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Gravesend
DA12 1AU

27th March 2022

For the Attention of Mr. Peter Price

Dear Mr. Price,

**Re:- Proposed new Trolley Store for Rochester and Cobham Park Golf Club,
Park Pale by Rochester, Kent ME2 3UL Planning reference 2022 0232**

I refer to your email of 23rd March 2022 regarding my submission of roof material samples.

In terms of Historical Context I believe that it is important to keep in mind that the proposed Trolley Store will lie within a vast open landscaped Deer park and not in a cheek by jowl setting with notable historic buildings. For instance; the Trolley Store's nearest neighbour is Cobham Hall set at approximately a half mile distance, with no direct line of sight between the two buildings. As such, it is my opinion that the proposed roofing material for the store cannot possibly have any visual impact, either positive or negative, upon either the setting of Cobham Hall or it's architectural appearance.

Thus in terms of the historical context of the site; this remains undisturbed.

In terms of how the man-made slate will weather I believe that it will be no better or worse than natural slates cut from a quarry. Unlike man-made clay tiles which have a slightly porous and textured surface (upon which algae and lichens will gradually grow) the surface of both quarry slates and man-made slates is smooth , upon which neither algae or lichens will grow.

This is amply demonstrated by looking at roofs in excess of 100 years of age; such as those to be found on many a Victorian / Edwardian London school, farmyard buildings and the wonderful roofs of French chateaux. Unlike tiles made from clay, where tiles adjacent to one another will weather at different rates (eventually giving rise to tonal shading) ; all slates on a slate roof weather at the same rate to give either a slightly lighter or darker shade to the roof covering (as the years go by)

depending upon the cleanliness or saltiness of the air passing over the slates. One can of course point to many a slate roof where some of the slates are a different shade / colour to others but this is always due to discolouration created by adjacent materials; such as lead flashings at the base of chimney stacks, lead apron flashings to dormer windows or untreated lead rolls used for hips and ridges. It is not as a result of the slates in themselves , weathering at varying rates.

I notice from your email that my drawings P/3/2333 revision Z and SK/100/2333, which formed part of my application have been mislaid by the validation team. I now submit 4 more copies of these drawings for your consideration. Whilst I am not conceited enough to suggest that the proposed Trolley Store has the architectural merit of the main cathedral in the centre of Vienna or the Hospice De Beaune in France; the use of two (or even multiple colour roofing materials to weather buildings) has a very solid historical pedigree . My proposal is to employ the black slates (made by Guardian) with their grey slates to provide both visual interest and character. The enclosed drawings indicate how this would be achieved. Grey and Black tile samples already submitted.

In conclusion, I believe that the Guardian man-made slates, which will neither break or crack, used in the manner as illustrated on the drawings, will provide a long lasting roof covering worthy of the buildings location and its moment in time. In the past, all architects, engineers, masons and developers were keen to utilise the most modern building techniques and materials available to them at their moment in History. Eventually; the modern material of yester-year becomes Historic.

Finally; I confirm that no other materials are being submitted for approval. I can however confirm that the facing brick will match existing.

Yours sincerely,



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Enc:- 4 copies of A3 drawing P/3/2333 revision Z and A4 detail sheet SK/100/2333

cc Mr. J. Aughterlony
Mr. M. Breton